2: Bernardi E, M-4 (no date) 1955 FL12 Masai FL12



| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| KISONGO. | 1. Kisongo | 2. Sigirari | 5. Salei or Saleh |
| | a. Kiteto | 3. Laitokitok | 6. Laitayok |
| | b. Moiba | 4. Siria | |
| LUMBWA. | 1. Nguruman | 2. Serenget | 3. Engaruka |

The villages, *eng ang*, pl. *ing angite*, is the minimal territorial unit. Villages are distributed within the minor sections. JOHNSTON,[15] had already noted that "they generally range within certain districts". A village is the residence of one or more elders with his or their wives and cattle. A man after his marriage does not live in the same village as his father, unless the latter has become senile and unable to cater for himself.

The internal structure of the village is based on the gatesystem. This consists in a proper arrangement of the house on the sides of the village's gates. The village consists of a large yard enclosed by a thorny fence with gates opening at opposite sides. The house are built on the right and left sides of each gate, every gate with its houses belonging to a single elder. The usual arrangement is as follows: the first house on the gate's right is the dwelling of the owner's first wife; the first house on the left side is that of his second wife; the second house on the right side is that of his third wife; and the same alternating order is followed if marries more wives. The central yard is reserved for cattle. The elder's cattle are allotted to each of his wives according to her rank in the house. Cattle in possession of one side of the gate cannot be inherited by the other side. When inheritance takes place it is with great care that one tries to avoid cattle interchange.[16] The gate system, observes FOSBROOKE,[17] is an ideal, and "a symmetrically arranged gate is seldom found in practice". When people move in search of better grassland, the village is not destroyed, but simply evacuated. During the owner's absence the houses may be occupied by other temporary tenants. At the reverse migration the owner comes back to his old village if this is not irreparably decayed, and it is agreed by custom that any foreigner who might have found shelter in the house must vacate the place to the original owner.

Another type of Masai village should be mentioned here. It is

[15] JOHNSTON, *The Uganda Protectorate*, London 1904, p. 810.
[16] See especially MERKER, *l. c.*, pp. 27 s.
[17] FOSBROOKE, *l. c.*, p. 44.

*648 Resignation of Sir Charles Eliot.

The policy subsequently adopted by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in dealing with applications for land, which had been received in respect of areas inhabited by the Masai, led to the resignation of Sir Charles Eliot, and hastened the concentration of the Masai within the confines of reserves set apart exclusively for their use, the policy which Sir Charles Eliot had maintained should be resorted to only in the last extremity.

*648 311 166 Mr. Hobley's investigations regarding Laikipia.

While he was acting Commissioner, Mr. Hobley continued to collect information on the subject of the Masai grazing grounds and came to the conclusion that the Masai were not effectively occupying at any period of the year more than one-fifth of that grazing. He considered, however, that the concentration of the Masai in certain portions of the Rift Valley could only be regarded as a tentative solution of the Masai question, while the final settlement of the problem could be attained by placing the whole of the Masai tribe on the Laikipia highlands. He described Laikipia as an extensive plateau stretching from Loroghi mountain on the north to the Uaso Narok on the south and south-east and bounded on the west by a steep escarpment. Until 1890, this plateau had been inhabited by a powerful branch of the Masai, called the Laikipia, who were in that year attacked and dispersed by the Purko division with the loss of all their cattle. The great cattle plague of 1891 killed off most of the Purko captures and they once more retired south leaving Laikipia practically unoccupied. The western part of the plateau was not so well watered as some of the Rift Valley, but the Masai reported that owing to better distribution and the considerable amount of rainfall the grazing was more dependable than and superior to that of the Rift, and had formerly carried much larger flocks and herds than those possessed by the Masai in 1904. The Masai also expressed themselves as quite satisfied in regard to the water supply on Laikipia and as willing to move from the Rift Valley to the plateau.

Sir Donald Stewart's views.

On his arrival in the Protectorate, Sir Donald Stewart gave immediate consideration to the matter and came to the conclusion that the removal of the Masai from the Rift Valley into two reserves was the only real settlement to the question. Masai and Europeans could never live together without endless trouble and friction: the Laikipia lands were well known to the Masai and well suited to them; they were some way removed from the Railway and not tempting to the settlers then in the Protectorate, though it was quite possible, he wrote, that when the Masai had grazed down the grass and got it sweet, envious eyes would be cast on their lands. He, therefore, emphasized the necessity of making these Laikipia lands an absolute native reserve for the Masai and asked that no applications for land by the settlers would be entertained within its limits.

Agreement of 1904.

On the 9th of August, 1904, he held a meeting with the Masai Chiefs at Naivasha, at which were present Lenana, Masikondi, Legalishu and other principal chiefs representing the Purko, Kakonyukye, Loita, Damat and L'Otayok sections of the tribe. After explaining the position to them, he asked if it was true that they were agreeable to move to other lands of their own free will and give up the Rift Valley to European settlement. They replied that they were willing to do so under certain conditions, which appeared to be reasonable, and Sir Donald Stewart made a formal agreement with them, embodying their requests. This agreement was translated to and signed by all of them, and the Commissioner also signed, with a proviso that the Secretary of State's approval was necessary before the agreement became valid. Later, he held another meeting with the Masai of the Kaputiei, Matapatu, L'Odo Kilani and Sighirari divisions, at which the same three head chiefs were present. The agreement was read over and explained to them and they asked to sign the paper. The text of this agreement, the "Masai Agreement of 1904," is to be found in Appendix 1.

The settlement arrived at was to be enduring "so long as the Masai as a race shall exist." Compensation was stipulated for in respect of a few small plots of cultivation (which would not amount to more than some two thousand rupees in all), and the Commissioner saw no objection to the reservation of a tract of land on Mount Kinangop for the exercise of their religious ceremonies connected with circumcision. The land which had been used in 1903 was situated seven miles

648 * 3 166

to the north-east of Naivasha, in an open plain without either timber or water, and the land now asked for was some seven miles beyond, situated at the base of the hill Ngorinitu, along which runs a small though perpetual stream, the Nagarangata, and an area of some five square miles was considered sufficient for their requirements. A road area, half a mile broad, would be beaconed off as a path by which Masai could travel between the areas reserved for the two sections of the tribe and an administrative station would be established on Laikipia.*

Secretary of State's approval.

Lord Lansdowne conveyed his approval to the Agreement by telegram on the 15th of October, 1904 and by despatch on the 21st of that month, and in his despatch he concurred in the opinion that Masai and Europeans could never live together without friction. The remarkable influx of colonists from South Africa and elsewhere and the rapidly increasing number of applications for permission to settle in the Rift Valley lent force to these considerations. It was clear that the squatting of numerous colonists on the land over which the Masai flocks and herds had hitherto roamed without hinderance and the need of all new-comers to gain access to the principal watering-places must inevitably lead to disputes and probably to disturbances which might easily assume the shape of a bitter and vindictive struggle between the two races. This aspect of the case had come forward prominently owing to the fact that a large number of intending settlers had applied for grants which would practically absorb the best and most favoured grazing grounds of the Masai between Lakes Nakuru and Naivasha.

The Secretary of State recapitulated the position which had been arrived at with the East Africa Syndicate with whom arrangements were being made in June and July, 1903, for the grant to them of 500 square miles of land in the Naivasha Province, north and east of the Railway. It was not, he said, until the terms with the Syndicate had been finally arranged that he was warned that this grant, to which by that time the Government was committed, would materially curtail the best grazing grounds of the Masai; that the effect of large additional grants in the same vicinity would be to deprive the tribe of the best of their remaining pastures; or that the Masai had, in formal conference, only undertaken to raise no objection to the grant of the Syndicate land on the condition that the remaining grazing grounds were left to them.

He had, therefore, come to the conclusion that it would be advisable at least temporarily to exclude European settlers from the lands which still remained to the Masai in the Rift Valley after the grant of this concession, but he realized that this step was tantamount to the provisional creation of a Masai reserve in the Rift Valley. He, therefore, welcomed the solution of the problem proposed by Sir Donald Stewart in the form of the Agreement of 1904, by which the Masai would move from their old country and thus make it available for European colonization and which would involve the definite and permanent establishment of two reserves for the northern and southern sections of the tribe respectively.

The Secretary of State emphasised the fact that the definite acceptance of the policy of native reserves implied an absolute guarantee that the natives would, so long as they desired it, remain in undisputed and exclusive possession of the areas set aside for their use. In concluding his despatch, he remarked that the scheme submitted appeared to offer every possibility of a satisfactory solution of a difficult problem, and that he was the more glad to be able to express his approval, as it could probably not have been withheld without occasioning much disappointment to the Masai and shaking their confidence in the authorities of the Protectorate.

The Masai Move, 1904.

Steps were at once taken to move the Masai from the Rift Valley to Laikipia and from Nairobi to Ngong. The latter move was undertaken without difficulty, but some pressure had to be put on the Masai, of the Rift Valley, to induce them to leave their grazing grounds for the Northern Reserve. The separation of one

* On August 9th, 1904, the day on which Sir Donald Stewart met the Masai Chief at Naivasha, he signed the lease to the East Africa Syndicate Limited, the terms of which are alluded to in page 188. Though no reference is made in the Agreement with the Masai it must be presumed that the area so demised was excluded from the lands set apart for the Southern Masai Reserve by the Agreement of 1904.

*648
311
166



part of the tribe from the other was regarded with suspicion, it being suspected that the Government were adopting this policy in order that they might the more easily annihilate the tribe by defeating the sections each in turn. Further, almost immediately after the move commenced, it was found that the water supply there was totally inadequate for the requirements of the Masai.

The Masai, in fact, so neglected to carry out the terms of the agreement, as largely to destroy its meaning. Five sections, referred to as the Kiburgu, Gekunuki, Loita, Damat and Laitutok undertook to move absolutely to Laikipia. A considerable portion, estimated at about one quarter, of the first-named section remained in the Southern Reserve or in the uninhabited country between the Uaso Nyiro and Mara Rivers. The Kakonyukye (Gekunuki) moved from the neighbourhood of Naivasha to Il Melili and the southern slopes of the Mau. The Loita continued to occupy the Loita Hills and Plains. The Damat made use of the country watered by the Southern Uaso Nyiro and its tributaries and the last named section continued to inhabit the region to the north of Kilimanjaro.

*648
311
166
131

Extension of the boundaries of the Northern Masai Reserve.

The boundaries of the Northern Masai Reserve had been fixed by the Agreement of 1904 as follows:—

On the north, the Loroghi Mountains.

On the west, the Laikipia Escarpment.

On the south, the Lesuswa or Nyam and the Uaso Narok, and

On the east, the Kisima.

A short while before his death, Sir Donald Stewart, realising that the area so enclosed was inadequate, promised an extension of the original boundary, but he died before he had been able to place on record what had occurred at a conference held with the representatives of the Masai and those settlers who had taken up land in the area proposed for this extension. The provisional boundaries agreed upon seem to have been:—

On the east of the Aberdare Range, the Uaso Nyiro.

On the west of the Aberdare Range, the southern boundary was the Equator and the western boundary the crest line of the Osobugo loo-'l-dian and the Laikipia Escarpment.

Further extension of the Reserve.

This extension, however, was insufficient, and Sir James Hayes Sadler, in February, 1906, proposed a further enlargement, making the southern boundary of the reserve the northern boundaries of the East Africa Syndicate land, the eastern boundary the Uaso Nyiro, and the western boundary the crest of the Osobugo loo-'l-dian, as before. Several settlers, who were under the necessity of vacating their land, were compensated by additional grants elsewhere.

Northern Reserve a Closed District.

By a Proclamation, dated the 30th of May, 1906, the Northern Masai Reserve, whose boundaries are therein defined, was declared a closed district.

The further extension of the Northern Reserve.

On April 6, 1906, the Secretary of State signified his concurrence with these proposals. But the Northern Masai were still discontented. Their stock, after the removal from the somewhat foul grounds of the Rift Valley, had increased enormously, and at least once every year they had to break the boundaries of their reserve, both on the East and on the South, the grazing within the reserve allotted to them being insufficient. On the East they were permitted, every dry season, to cross the Uaso Nyiro and pasture their herds and flocks between that river and the Uaso Nanyokye, *i.e.*, over an area of 200 square miles outside their reserve. On the South, they settled on the shores of Lake Ol Bolossat, and Sir James Hayes Sadler asked, on November 23, 1906, that these grazing grounds might be relinquished by the East Africa Syndicate in exchange for land elsewhere, the lands so relinquished to be handed over to the Masai. No agreement, however, was come to with the East Africa Syndicate, and although this area was much used by the Masai, it never actually formed part of their reserve.

Proposals to extend the Northern Reserve.

In the year 1907 there was a partial failure of rains and the Masai were allowed to break their boundaries eastwards across the Uaso Nyiro, southwards towards Mount Kippiperi, and westwards towards Lake Solai. Their stock was estimated by Mr. Collyer, the District Commissioner Rumuruti, at 70,000 head of cattle, and 1,750,000 sheep and goats, and it was amply demonstrated that, for their large and increasing herds, the grazing to be found in the Northern Reserve would be totally inadequate in a period of severe drought. It was suggested that the time was opportune for inducing the Masai to part with their superfluous cattle, but proposals were also considered for the permanent and final extension of their reserve. On September 23rd, 1908, Sir J. Hayes Sadler forwarded to the Colonial Office a recommendation made by Mr. Bagge, that the 200 square miles east of the Uaso Nyiro should be definitely added to the reserve, but no extension of this nature was made and the subject was dropped, when more detailed consideration was given to the possibility of moving all the Masai from the Northern Reserve.

648* 311 166 ● 131

The Kakonyukye Division.

When the move of the Northern Masai was started at the end of 1904, the Provincial Commissioner at Naivasha thought it would be advisable to keep a few Masai near the Government station, in order that Europeans of the Rift Valley might the more easily obtain the services of herdsmen and servants. These Masai, of the Kakonyukye division, were allowed to settle with their cattle on Government land. The rapid increase of the stock belonging to the Purko Masai, on Laikipia, caused an insufficiency of pasturage for the Kakonyukye Masai, who had moved north from the Rift Valley and these latter, therefore, gradually returned to join their friends and relations near Naivasha. They took up their residence on all the unoccupied farms, squatted on the East Africa Syndicate land, grazed over the whole of the Commonage, and became a general nuisance. They were repeatedly warned by Mr. Bagge and others that they must leave Naivasha, but the move was not undertaken until 1910, when they went to the Loita Plains, to the west of the Masai Southern Reserve, afterwards called the extended Southern Reserve, taking with them some 10,000 head of cattle and 30,000 sheep and goats.

648* 311 166

Purko on the Loita Plains.

In addition to these Kakonyukye Masai, there lived in the Loita Plains about 2,000 Masai, with 20,000 cattle and half a million sheep and goats. Some of these were Sendeu's (Loita) Masai, whilst others were Purko Masai, who, instead of moving to Laikipia in 1904, went South and occupied what was at the time an unexplored region.

The suggested removal from Laikipia.

In the year 1908, various suggestions were made with a view to moving the Masai from the Northern Reserve to the area lying between the Mara River and the Southern Uaso Nyiro. This country, like Laikipia, had formerly been occupied by various sections of the Masai, the Loita, L'Otayok and Damat, who had, for the most part, disappeared from the area. The suggestion to move the Masai was undoubtedly made in the interests of European settlers, some of whom had cast envious eyes on the grazing grounds of Laikipia, as Sir Donald Stewart had prophesied when submitting the Masai Agreement of 1904.

Reports on Loita.

In the month of December, 1908, Mr. McClure and Captain Monckton, the Assistant District Commissioners of Ngong and Sotik, after extensive tours through the Loita country, submitted reports in which it was stated that the area south of Sotik and between the Uaso Nyiro and the Mara River, comprised some 2,300 square miles, of which 1,300 square miles were waterless. The Masai population numbered approximately 2,270, with 20,000 cattle and 100,000 sheep. The land, as a whole, was unsuitable for European settlement, though several areas might be regarded as good farming land, but these were so disconnected, as to render impossible their proper supervision. Further, permanent streams were so far apart as to preclude the possibility of allotting such farms on a continuous system. The land was generally suited to the requirements of a nomadic and pastoral tribe such as the Masai.

Lenana's views.

On the 4th of January, 1909, the Governor mentioned the proposal to Lenana, and somewhat to his surprise, found that the Laibon was entirely in favour of it, provided that the settlers left the suggested area, but he doubted whether the

*648 311 166



water in that country was sufficient for the requirements of the Northern Masai. Lenana's main object in recommending the move was to re-amalgamate the various sections of the tribe, in order to enable him once more to exercise direct control over all his followers. Ever since the removal of the Northern Masai to Laikipia, he had found his authority to be waning. The Rift Valley Masai had been separated more from the Nairobi Masai than Lenana had expected when the Agreement was signed. This separation was, to a large extent due to the fact that the Government had failed to carry out all the conditions of the treaty. The road half-a-mile broad, which was to have been left inalienated between the reserves had been reduced to such an extent that it was practically useless for cattle, and the land on either side had been leased to Europeans. In August, 1908, the movement of cattle between the reserves was altogether prohibited, owing to quarantine regulations, and the Masai of Laikipia were thus, to all intents and purposes, cut off from their Laibon at Ngong. Legalishu, who was present at the meeting, could not be induced to give his opinion on the subject. The Governor stated that the question of the move would not be contemplated by the Government unless it was in accord with the expressed wishes of the Masai, and he refused to comply with Lenana's suggestion that the matter might be settled without delay, for he considered that further investigation was necessary to ascertain whether the suggested area was suitable for the accommodation of the Northern Masai.

**Reports on the Loita Plains.**

As Lenana was so much in favour of the move, and as the reports sent in by Mr. McClure and Captain Monckton, though not enthusiastic, had been sufficiently encouraging, the Governor gave orders for two senior officers to inspect the country, and Messrs. Bagge and Hollis were entrusted with this work. The driest season of the year, March, was chosen in order that the country might be seen at its worst, and an extended tour was made through a part of Mau, Il-Melili, Ngatet and the Loita Plains to the Mara River, thence along the Anglo-German frontier, the Loita Hills and the Southern Uaso Nyiro to Naivasha. The gist of the reports submitted by these officers was that the land and grazing were, on the whole, good, but that there was an insufficiency of water and, much as they would like to see all the Masai concentrated in one reserve, they could not recommend the move until steps had been taken to irrigate the land, and until the settlers who were living in the area had been given farms elsewhere. Mr. Bagge, however, pointed out that the inclusion in the reserve of any of the country known as the Mau Plateau had not been considered, and that it was probable that by engineering works the water supply might be considerably increased. He suggested that an engineer should be sent into the area to report on the prospects of irrigation near the l'Ongaianet River.

**Irrigation of the Loita Plains.**

On Sir J. Hayes Sadler's departure from East Africa, Mr. Jackson instructed Mr. Watts, the Commissioner of Public Works, to visit the Loita Plains, and to report on the possibility of irrigation. At the same time, the settlers in the area which might be allotted to the Masai, were to be approached with a view to ascertaining if they would be prepared to move, should the scheme be carried through on consideration of receiving compensation on Laikipia or in the vicinity, to the extent of their present holdings, plus half as much again. Mr. Watts drew up an elaborate report and showed that by the expenditure of £5,280 the whole of the area could be watered. He also estimated that after deducting 1¼ million acres for grazing of game, forest and waste areas, there remained 2¼ million acres of good grazing land available for the support of 150,000 cattle and 1,200,000 sheep, reckoning seven acres per cow and one acre per sheep. A sum of £2,000 was inserted in the Estimates for 1910-1911 as a commencement for the irrigation scheme, but was disallowed by the Secretary of State.

*648 311 166 561

**E-Unoto Ceremony, 1910.**

In August, 1909, the District Commissioner of the Northern Masai Reserve reported that the Purko warriors wished shortly to proceed to the Kinangop reservation which had been set aside for the E-Unoto ceremonies, and to take some 10,000 cattle with them. The Purko Masai living in the Loita Plains likewise asked, through Lenana, for permission to proceed to Kinangop. Arrangements were made with the East Africa Syndicate, and the Northern Masai were

permitted to take their cattle to the Kinangop Reserve, but, although the Masai living in the Loita Plains were informed that they themselves might go to Kinangop, they were forbidden to take their cattle with them for fear of infecting with East Coast fever, the stock belonging to the European farmers through whose lands they would have to pass, and of carrying this disease to the Northern Reserve. 648* 311 166 561

By December, the Northern Masai, with 10,000 cattle but unaccompanied by their principal chiefs, Masikondi and Legalishu, had moved to Kinangop, but the ceremonies were commenced prematurely, for Lenana, on hearing that the Southern Purko might not take their cattle with them, withheld his sanction, which is necessary, according to the custom of the tribe, before a start can be made. On January 14th, 1910, he sent orders to Kinangop for the warriors to proceed with their cattle to the Southern Reserve in order to hold the ceremony at Ngong. At the same time he appealed to the Governor and pointed out that, unless his authority were recognized and his instructions obeyed, he feared a disruption between the two sections of the tribe.

On February 2nd, Sir Percy Girouard held a meeting at Nairobi, at which were present Lenana and those elders of the Northern Reserve that were taking part in the ceremony on Kinangop. Lenana made a direct appeal to the Governor, and stated that the condition of affairs which had arisen since the last E-Unoto ceremony, whereby free inter-communication between the two sections of the tribe had become impossible, was gradually but surely disintegrating his authority, a matter of great regret both to himself and to his people. It was, he explained, an unheard of thing that there should be two ceremonies for one section of the tribe, one on Kinangop and the other at Ngong, and, since the Southern Masai were forbidden to take their cattle to Kinangop, he desired the Northern Masai to proceed to Ngong to hold the ceremony there. He further stated that it was his most earnest wish that all the Northern Masai should move from Laikipia and inhabit the proposed extended Southern Reserve. The Governor informed Lenana that he could not sanction the move of all the Masai without consulting Masikondi and Legalishu, but, as regards the ceremony, he was quite willing that it should be held at Ngong if that was Lenana's wish and if he could arrange matters with the people concerned. The Masai elders then proceeded to Lenana's kraal to discuss the matter with him there, with the result that they returned to Kinangop, and, having collected their cattle, proceeded with the warriors to the Southern Reserve. It was, fortunately, unnecessary for the Government actively to intervene in support of the Laibon.

Meeting at Kisenian.

On February 24th, 1910, a second meeting was held at a camp known as Kiserian, close to Lenana's kraal near Ngong, with the Masai. At this meeting there were present, besides Lenana, Masikondi and Legalishu, respectively the senior elder and the spokesman of the senior warriors (who are generally referred to as the two chiefs) of the Northern Masai. These two representatives of the Northern Reserve not only agreed to the suggested move but expressed themselves in favour of it. It was accordingly proposed to carry it out as soon after the rains had commenced as practicable. 648* 311 166

The Commissioner.

Mr. Collyer, the District Commissioner of the Northern Reserve, was appointed Special Commissioner for the move, and, as several Provinces and interests were affected, he was directed to correspond with the Secretary for Native Affairs, who was to arrange the details, and submit recommendations for the displacement of the white settlers from the Southern Uaso Nyiro.

Everything went well. The majority of settlers were public spirited enough to consent to the Masai passing over their farms, and four separate routes were arranged. Special officers were deputed to accompany the mobs of cattle and a survey was commenced on Laikipia for farms to which the settlers from the Southern Uaso Nyiro might proceed.

In April, gastro-enteritis, which for some time past had been prevalent all along the line from Naivasha to Kisumu as well as in the northern Masai Reserve, broke out among the Masai herds in epidemic form. It is possible that this had [232]

*G48 311 166 D32]

something to do with the readiness of the Masai to move, for their methods of quarantine are to quit foul ground and drive their herds on to fresh pastures. Be that as it may, the Masai started towards the middle of April of their own accord, and before the Government was really ready, those from the extreme north of the reserve pressing south, and those on the southern boundaries leaving the reserve by the routes that had been arranged. The drought may have expedited their movements, for no rain had fallen in the Northern Masai Reserve whilst there had been a plentiful quantity on the Loita Plains, on Mau, and near the railway.

**The Move Suspended.**

On April 20th, 1910, a telegram was received from the Secretary of State ordering the move to be suspended and before the end of the month, steps had to be taken to send the Masai back to their reserve. The Secretary of State's telegram was followed by a despatch, dated April 22nd, 1910, intimating that, inasmuch as the agreement signed in 1904 was solemn and binding, it could not be cancelled without the clearest proof that the proposed agreement was in accordance with the wishes of the Masai and especially of the northern section. A document must be procured of equal formality with that of 1904 and must be signed by an equally representative body of Masai. Owing to the severe form which the cattle disease had taken, it is probable that the move could not have been undertaken in any case for fear of infecting the stock on European farms and in the Loita Plains, and this was made the excuse for the postponement. But the Masai were neither willing nor, indeed, able to remain in their reserve, for there was very little grazing owing to the drought and the ground was foul; and before many weeks were past, between twenty and thirty thousand cattle had been driven across the Northern Uaso Nyiro. Permission was afterwards granted to the Masai to occupy the 900 square miles between the Rivers Nyiro and Nenyokya.

**The Meeting of May 20, 1910.**

On May 20th another meeting was held at Ngong, and a provisional agreement was entered into between the Governor and the Masai, according to the terms of which the tribesmen, being satisfied that it was to their best interests that the Masai people should inhabit one area, and not be divided into two sections, as must arise under the treaty of 1904, agreed to move from Laikipia to the Loita Plains, when the Governor should notify them. There were present, as representatives of the Masai, Lenana, Mashumali, and Legalishu, Sakuel (whose position in the Southern Reserve was analogous to Mashumali's in the Northern Reserve), the heads of clans, *i.e.*, the principal elders, of the Northern Reserve, and the spokesmen of the senior, the junior, and the coming age-groups of warriors. The Governor was supported by Messrs. Hobley and Lane, Provincial Commissioners, Mr. Combe, Crown Advocate, Mr. Hollis, Secretary for Native Affairs, and Mr. Collyer, the District Commissioner of the Northern Reserve. The Rev. Dr. Scott was also present as an independent witness. The agreement, which was entered into by the Masai of their own free will, was translated and fully explained to them. There was, however, one dissentient voice, and, during the discussion which preceded the signing of the agreement, Legalishu said he did not consider the new area large enough. The Governor informed the Masai that the move, if it was to take place at all, must be a voluntary one, and he asked Lenana, Mashumali, and Legalishu to depute representatives to visit the country with Mr. Collyer. He further promised the Masai that, if they did not wish to move, they need not do so, and that if they did move, and the area was found to be too small, the country across the Mara River towards Kisii would be included in their territory. Before a final agreement could be entered into, the return of the party that would go and inspect the land would be awaited, and their report considered.

**Mr. Collyer's visit to the Loita country.**

Mr. Collyer spent two months in the Loita Plains, on Mau, and Ngatot, and in the Il-Molili country. The two men from the Northern Reserve who accompanied the party were both nominated by Legalishu, and, when they returned to Laikipia in August, they reported that the proposed area was too small, that there was an insufficiency of water, and that the Kisii would steal their cattle. This report was accepted by the chiefs and elders of the northern section, and a large gathering, led by Mashumali and Legalishu, met at Rumuruti, on August 27th, 1910, to

649*
511
166

labours Mr. Collyer, the District Commissioner, eighty's decision. They said that, as their Lealtwi wished them to move, they were ready to go if the Governor ordered them to do so, but that they did not wish to leave Ladolpin. As this was their determination, no attempt was made to influence them, no pressure was put upon them, and the subject was not again broached to them.

The death of Lewanika

On March 7th, 1911, Lewanika died. He had been suffering from dysentery for a month, but was getting better, when he suddenly collapsed. The Assistant District Commissioner in charge of the Southern Masui Reserve, Mr. Crewe-Read, was with him a few hours before his death, and discussed various minor questions with him. Lewanika did not nominate his successor, as is the custom with the Masui Lealtwas, for he only realized a short time before he died, that his last hour had come, but, when he felt he was dying, he made the following speech in the presence of numerous witnesses :-

648*
511
166
941

"Tell the Government to look after my children and to give them the money which I should have earned if I had been alive. Tell my people to obey the Government as they have done during my life. Tell the Ladolpin Masui to move with their cattle to the Loire Plains."

April 2nd was fixed upon as the date for a meeting with the Masui representatives of both the Northern and Southern Reserves in order to select a successor to Lewanika. Mashwabi, the senior elder of the Northern Masui, was too unwell to proceed to Nguna, but he delegated his powers to two of the members of his clan. Legalobo, with the other heads of the clans and the spokesmen, of the various aggregations from the Northern and Southern Reserves, were present, and the proceedings were watched on behalf of the Government by Mr. Lane, Provincial Commissioner of Nairobo, Mr. Hollis, Secretary for Native Affairs, and Mr. Crewe-Read. Seggi, Lewanika's eldest surviving son, a youth of thirteen years of age, was unanimously chosen as Lealtwa. Owing to his youth, it was decided to appoint two Regents to assist him in governing his people, one for the Southern and one for the Northern Reserve. Mpuwa, a cousin of Lewanika, was selected as Regent for the south, and Legalobo for the north. When these nominations were completed, Legalobo stated, on behalf of the Northern Masui, that he wished to ask that they might be permitted to move to the extended Southern Reserve. This change of opinion was undoubtedly due partly to the dying wishes of Lewanika and partly to a fear of disruption between the two sections of the tribe. On the other representatives expressing a like request, the Masui were informed by their Provincial Commissioner that they would have to proceed to Nairobi and approach the Governor personally on the matter.

809

Sir Percy Girouard held a meeting with the Masui representatives on April 3rd, 1911, in Nairobi. Legalobo, as spokesman of the Northern Masui, again stated that it was their wish to move to the extended Southern Reserve. The Governor repeated that, if the move were to take place, it must be a voluntary one, that the Masui were completely free to accept or reject the proposed arrangement, and that, if they did reject it, the pledges made to them by the Government in 1904, would be scrupulously adhered to. They thereupon replied that it was their own wish that they might be allowed to move. A formal treaty was drafted, and another meeting was held on April 6th. The members of the Executive Council and the Provincial Commissioners were summoned, and, in the presence of all, the Governor asked the Masui whether or not they wished to move to the extended Southern Reserve. The reply was again in the affirmative. Several minor points were then discussed, Legalobo acting as spokesman. The principal matter was the water question. The Masui stated that, if the Government would help to improve the water supply, they themselves would contribute towards the work by the payment of hut-tax. They requested that all Europeans should be removed from the area, and that as much as possible of the area known as "The Promised Land," which had been applied for by Mr. Percy Cobb, should be given to them. Protection from possible Somali raids was asked for and granted. Finally, the Masui begged to be allowed to start the move as soon as there was sufficient grass along the routes, and asked that they might not be hurried. They were informed in reply, that the move was contingent on the approval of His

649*
511
166

#C48 311 166



Majesty the King, and that, if they were permitted to move, they would be allowed to proceed shortly. After this, the treaty was translated and fully explained to them, and the Masai affixed their marks in the presence of the European officers. The treaty was then sent to Nairobi to ascertain if Mankwoshi and such of the old men as were too infirm to attend the meeting at Ngong approved of the terms.

The agreement, as drafted, was submitted to the Secretary of State, who approved of its terms, by telegram, on the 29th of May, and by despatch on the 2nd of June, 1911.

The Move.

The Masai were accordingly informed that the Government had agreed to their moving from the Northern Reserve into an extended Southern Reserve. The move was arranged to proceed along four routes throughout June, July and August. No compulsion of any kind was used, and administrative and veterinary officers were detailed to escort the mobs of cattle across the European farms.

Congestion on the Move.

One of the routes, which proceeded by Lake Naivasha, went straight into the extended Southern Reserve, and those Masai who travelled by this route soon reached the Loita Plains. The other three routes converged on the top of the Mau into "The Promised Land." The first Masai to arrive on the plateau went right through to their destination, but the succeeding parties, finding the grazing good, remained, erected their kraals, and decided not to push forward into the plains below. Unfortunately, no precautions were taken to induce them to leave the plateau, and there was consequently a great congestion at the commencement of the heavy rains, which usually fall on the Mau towards the end of August and in September. The roads became impassable, and the people and stock suffered from cold and discomfort. They accordingly returned to the European farms lying between Njoro and Elmenteita Stations on the Uganda Railway.

Steps to remove them.

In consequence of this check, the Secretary for Native Affairs and the Director of Agriculture were sent, on August 31st, to investigate the situation, and they reported that there was nothing to show that the move was other than temporarily checked. It had, however, considerably affected the views of some of the people, and a desire appeared, more particularly on the part of Legalishu, to return to the north.

Move continued to Laikipia.

As it was impossible for the Masai to remain on European farms near the Railway for any length of time, the Governor issued directions for them to be sent back to the southern part of Laikipia, and to the land belonging to the East Africa Syndicate, adjacent to the former Northern Masai Reserve. The carrying out of the necessary arrangements were entrusted to Mr. John Ainsworth, Provincial Commissioner, Kisumu, who met the Masai representatives at Elmenteita and Nakuru early in September. Mr. J. K. Hill placed 100,000 acres of Syndicate land at the disposal of the natives, and the move eastwards into this land was completed by September 18th.

Character of the Move.

This check was undoubtedly the result of the Masai having proceeded too quickly. They pressed forward even when asked by European farmers (through whose farms they were passing) to hold back, the farmers being desirous of trying to come up a trade with them. No police measure of any kind were adopted, testifying to the voluntary character of the move. It appears that the Masai did not suffer to any extent by the journey, and the losses reported were those which would naturally take place in large movements of stock.

#C48 311 166 429

Under-estimation of Masai stock.

The move had brought to light one matter of importance; previous calculations of the number of stock possessed by the Northern Masai had been greatly underestimated, and the probable figure was computed at 300,000 cattle and 2,000,000 sheep, a large increase over the original estimate, made in 1911, of 80,000 cattle and 1,000,000 sheep. That such an error should have been made is accounted for by the superstitious opposition of the Masai to the counting of any of their stock.

Report on Extended Southern Masai Reserve.

A report submitted by the Director of Agriculture at this time stated that the extended Southern Reserve was, more or less, fully stocked, partly owing to the fact that those Masai who had originally occupied the Southern Reserve had broken their boundaries, and driven their flocks and herds into the extended reserve, and partly owing to the arrival of 50,000 cattle and half-a-million sheep from Laikipia: The extended reserve was, however, stated to be capable of holding more stock if necessary, and investigations were immediately made regarding the suitability of the land across the Mara River.

Tours in the Ol-Orokuti.

The tour of investigation was undertaken by the Director of Agriculture and the Director of Public Works, and the report sent in was to the effect that the area available consisted of one million acres of the finest grazing land in the Protectorate, exceedingly well-watered, and superior to the former Northern Reserve. The country was practically uninhabited, owing, it was said, to the fact that some years before the Masai who then occupied the country were decimated by small-pox while, simultaneously, almost all their cattle died from rinderpest. Messrs. J. K. Hill and C. O'N. Chaplin, two prominent settlers, accompanied the Director of Agriculture on his tour, and submitted separate reports, testifying to the excellent quality of the land in question as a grazing area. In view of the eminent desirability of including all the Masai in one reserve, the Governor felt compelled to recommend that this further area should be allotted to the Masai.

Laikipia compared with the Southern Extension.

The position at this point was that an area of 4,300 square miles on Laikipia, of which not more than 1,200 was well-watered, was to be exchanged for 6,500 square miles in the south, of which 1,500 was described as some of the best stock country in British East Africa, and through the remaining 5,000 square miles of which flowed the perennial rivers, the Mara and Uaso Nyiro. It was further stated that the whole of this southern area was free from tsetse fly or other disease-carrying fly.

The Move suspended.

Meanwhile, on receipt of information respecting the check in the move, the Secretary of State had wired instructions that those natives who had not been provided with suitable accommodation in the south must be immediately provided for in the Northern Reserve. They could not be allowed to remain on private lands without giving rise to future difficulties, and the whole question of an eventual move must be suspended until the suitability and capacity of the new reserve had been thoroughly examined, it had been inspected by representatives of the Northern Masai, and until their full and free assent to the resumption of the move had been obtained. The actual move, if these conditions were fulfilled, must not be made until the Governor had satisfied the Secretary of State that an adequate water supply would be immediately available, and that the preparations for proper supervision of the move were complete.

Census of Masai on Laikipia.

After the check which took place in 1911, and the subsequent withdrawal on to European farms, the Masai returned to the Northern Reserve. Officers were immediately detailed to make a census of the Masai on Laikipia, and the returns showed a population of not more than 4,000 adults, together with 100,000 cattle and 1,000,100 sheep. It was calculated at the same time that there was, in the Southern and extended Southern Reserves, accommodation for 331,000 cattle, and it was therefore decided that the extensions of the Southern Reserve were more than capable of holding all the Masai stock from the north.

Tours in the Ol-Orokuti.

In November, 1911, six elders and a few warriors from the Northern Reserve accompanied Mr. R. W. Hemsted on a tour of inspection of the trans-Mara country. They were shown every part of the Ol-Orokuti (trans-Mara) area, and unanimously expressed the opinion that the country was eminently suitable for the Masai and their cattle.

In the same month Legalishu deputed four elders to visit the district, and these elders accompanied by Mr. Hemsted, toured the Ol-Orokuti for fourteen days. Their opinion on the area was not expressed, and they returned nothing but evasive answers, at the same time admitting that the grazing was sufficient and the water supply adequate.

*648
311
166

Meeting at Naivasha.

On the 10th of February, 1912, a meeting was held at Naivasha between the representatives of Masai from the Northern, Southern and extended Southern Reserves and the Secretary for Native Affairs (Mr. Hollis), supported by the Provincial Commissioner, Naivasha and several other administrative officers. There were present Masikondi and Legalishu with some thirty elders of the Northern Reserve, Ngaroya, the Regent of the Southern Reserve, carrying the iron club, as representing the Laibon, Ole Kotikosh and other Purko Masai, who had already moved into the extended Southern Reserve, and Ol le Seti with other Kakonyukye Masai. Legalishu and Masikondi stated that they did not now wish to move and that they believed the country offered to them in exchange for Laikipia was inadequate. Ngaroya said that he was authorised to inform them that it was the Laibon's wish that they should move south and so reunite the tribe, but the northern chiefs declined to carry out this wish of the Laibon. Ole Kotikosh expressed the desire of the rest of the Purko division to be allowed to proceed with the move south, and Ol le Seti stated that most of the Kakonyukye were already in the extended Southern Reserve and that the remainder wished to follow. As a result of this meeting the members of the Purko division who had remained in the north were permitted to move with their cattle, and arrangements for the move were entrusted to the Provincial Commissioner, Naivasha, on the 18th of February. The influence against the move exerted by Legalishu, however, was so great that although several of the Purko wished to proceed they were prevented from doing so, and small success attended a visit to Laikipia carried out by Ngaroya and Ole Kotikosh with a view to using their influence in favour of the move.

Directions to the Masai to move.

On the 8th of May, while Sir Percy Girouard was on leave in England, the Secretary of State decided that the Masai should be directed to move to the Southern from the Northern Reserve, but he gave instructions that the lands vacated in the north must not be dealt with in any way until the matter had received his approval.

Arrangements made for the move.

Arrangements for the move were at once put in hand. On the 10th of May, Mr. Bowring, the Acting Governor, proceeded to Naivasha accompanied by Mr. Hollis, Dr. Milne, the Principal Medical Officer, and Mr. Branch, Acting Chief Veterinary Officer, in order to discuss with Mr. McClellan and the local officials the details of the move. Two routes only were to be used, one *via* Elmenteita and across the plain by the road known as "The Promised Land," and the other *via* Gilgil and Elburu and across the Mau near Lake Naivasha. A broad track, twenty-five miles long, had been cut through the forest from the western slopes of Mau to the Mara River. Not more than 10,000 cattle were to be allowed to move in the first instance by each route and no further moks were to follow until the first ones had settled down. Adequate arrangements were made for the supervision of the move and medical and veterinary officers were provided.

Meeting at Naivasha, 21st May, 1912.

On the 21st of May, a meeting was held at Naivasha when it was explained to the Masai that the Government had decided that the terms of the treaty entered into on April 2nd, 1911, should be kept and that the northern Masai would be required to move. The chiefs offered no opposition, and, indeed, appeared to be relieved that the Government had come to a decision on the matter. Ngaroya, the Regent of the Southern Reserve, expressed his thanks on behalf of the Laibon and stated that it was a great satisfaction to all the Masai to know that they would be brought together again and not be divided into two sections. Legalishu agreed to move with the first batch and to help the others to settle after they had crossed the Mau.

The "Masai Case."

On the 29th of June, 1912, Mr. A. Morrison addressed the Colonial Office, intimating that he, in company with Mr. A. D. Home and Mr. A. W. Buckland, had been instructed to act for Legalishu in the taking of legal proceedings against the Government on behalf of the Masai. Action was brought in the High Court by Ol le Njogo and others against the Attorney General and others in May, 1913, and the case was dismissed with costs by the Chief Justice. An appeal was made to the Court of Appeal for Eastern Africa in December, 1913, but the appeal was dismissed with costs. Conditional leave to appeal to the Privy Council was

648* 31 166

granted, but lapsed owing to the appellants failing to give security for costs. Further details of the proceedings will be found in Appendix 3.

Allotment of land to settlers.

While the move was in progress the question of the allotment of land to settlers who were affected by the removal of the Masai from Laikipia was brought up. The claimants fall into two distinct categories, viz. :—

(1) Those who, in 1904, abandoned their farms, or claims to farms, on Laikipia in order to make room for the Masai who were, in that year, settled in the Northern Reserve : and

(2) Those who had abandoned their farms in the Lemek Valley and in the Southern Uaso Nyiro in connection with the move then progressing.

The original intention in respect of those of the first class was to make grants of land to them elsewhere. These Laikipia settlers were allowed time to make their selections, but, before these selections had been made, the removal of the Masai from Laikipia was mooted and the settlers preferred to wait in the hope of being, after all, able to take up their land on Laikipia as originally intended. The negotiations for the surrender of claims of those settlers who came within the second category were begun in 1909, and were carried out on the basis of a grant of land equal in area to that surrendered in the Southern Reserve, plus fifty per cent., or a sum of money, by way of compensation for improvements, if any. It was understood that no definite promises had been made that the Laikipia lands would be available for exchange, but there was little doubt that it had been taken for granted that this would be the case. Mr. Bowring consequently suggested that, in offering farms to claimants efforts should be made to offer farms approximately equal in value to the land to which the claimants would be entitled on Laikipia, were this land available. At the same time they would be given the alternative of waiting in the hope of being eventually granted land on Laikipia. The Secretary of State considered it desirable, from the public point of view, that no one who was to be compensated in connection with the movement of the Masai should be granted such compensation on Laikipia. He further directed that the claims should be satisfied purely on the basis of area, without reference to the hypothetical value of Laikipia lands. The satisfaction of such claims was to take precedence, within a reasonable limit of time, of any further general allotment of Crown Lands.

On the 23rd of October, 1912, further facts were telegraphed to the Secretary of State regarding the lands on Laikipia. It appears that, on April 7th, 1910, the Commissioner of Lands had informed the Governor that the result of the negotiations with the Masai would be the granting of approximately 200,000 acres on Laikipia. On April the 13th, the Governor had accepted the Commissioner's proposals, and, on that authority, the Land Office had informed the parties concerned that, if they surrendered their land in the Southern Reserve, they would be given areas in the Northern Reserve or its vicinity when the move had been accomplished. Similar promises had been made by the Governor to Major the Hon. R. F. Carnegie and Lady Southesk on the 14th of June, 1910. Sir Henry Belfield was therefore of opinion that the Government was under a legal obligation to fulfil the promise made on the completion of the move. He anticipated the most serious results if land on Laikipia was now refused to claimants. All the Southern Reserve farmers confidently expected to receive one and a half times their previous holdings out of the lands to be vacated by the Masai and the Governor feared that there was no chance of their accepting land elsewhere.

On receipt of this information the Secretary of State concurred in the view that the Government was committed to the grant of lands vacated by the northern Masai to the claimants in question and felt reluctantly compelled to discard the principles which he had previously laid down. He therefore directed that the obligations entered into in 1910 must be discharged, and as the land, if left vacant for any length of time, could only become useless, or at any rate, greatly impoverished, he approved of arrangements being made for the necessary grants, due regard being had to any prior claims which ought to be admitted to lands on Laikipia in view of the fact that the claimants surrendered their holdings there when the Masai were transferred from the Rift Valley in 1904.

*648
166
311

The Meeting of December 5th, 1912.

On December 5th, 1912, the Governor met the Masai chiefs at Nakuru. The remarks then made by Legalishu and his adherents were evasive, and no attempt was made to express their true feelings in the matter or to disclose their reasons for taking legal proceedings against the Government. The Governor was of opinion that only a minority of the tribal elders, headed by Legalishu and Masikondi, were responsible for this action, ostensibily on behalf of their tribe, and that the personal avidity and ambition of those two men were doubtless contributory causes of their organized opposition to the approved Government policy. Those who opposed the move had no valid ground for their objection as to the unsuitability of the new country to which they were being moved.

Completion of the move.

On the 9th of April, 1913, Sir Henry Belfield informed the Secretary of State that the Masai move was completed. With the exception of Il Dala Lekutuk division all the Laikipia Masai were located in the extended Reserve, while that division, after remaining for some months on the Uaso Nyiro, moved to the Kaputiei country and settled there. Reports showed that the losses suffered by the Masai on account of the move had been very small. Rinderpest was rife, both in Laikipia and the south, from which many hundreds of beasts died, but the veterinary officers who were in charge of both areas did all that was possible to prevent the spread of the disease. Sheep suffered on one or two occasions, but only a few succumbed. Two drifts were being used, each with an officer in control, and of the thousands of sheep at these drifts not one was lost. The death rate of the Masai themselves, directly attributable to the move, was probably nil. On the whole, the Masai behaved well throughout, and there was very little friction with settlers. Statistics show that the number of Masai moved between the 10th of June, 1912, and the 27th of March, 1913, was 462 warriors, 1,820 other males, 4,031 women and 3,751 children, a total of 10,064 souls, while nearly 200,000 head of cattle and 550,000 sheep were counted. The number of sheep is probably very greatly underestimated. The Secretary of State expressed his appreciation of the manner in which the delicate and difficult task had been performed.

Attitude of the Masai after the move.

On the completion of the move the Purko division evinced a considerable disinclination to cross the Mara River, but no steps were taken to induce them to do so and a large number of Masai, including all the Purko Muran, moved into the trans-Mara region in September, 1913.

The Masai did not, on the whole, settle down contentedly in their new surroundings and they showed a disposition to make the worst of everything. Complaints were incessant that the country was unsuitable for them and for their stock, and every device short of active resistance was employed to obstruct the Administration and to defeat the ends of justice. Information concerning crimes was withheld, and escaped prisoners were assisted and harboured. Chiefs and elders proved anything but helpful and were occasionally almost defiant. The "Masai Case" was undoubtedly responsible for much of this feeling, but it is also probable that the natives resented the closer administration which had been rendered possible by the amalgamation of the two reserves.

This discontented feeling began to disappear some six months after the completion of the move and raids, murders and stock thefts decreased in number. Two years after their arrival the Masai could be described as contented and happy in spite of their dissatisfied disposition.

Disputes with previous residents.

Prior to the arrival of the Masai from Laikipia, the country constituting the extended Southern Reserve had been occupied by members of the Loita, Damat, Kakonyukye and Siria tribal divisions as well as by about one-quarter of the Purko division. These sections had undertaken to move to Laikipia in 1904, but succeeded in evading the terms of their agreement with the Government and, while admitting that they had no claim to the land, occupied the area and came to regard it as their own. By these Masai the arrival of their fellows from Laikipia was resented, while the latter were displeased at finding the best grazing grounds already taken up. A considerable amount of friction ensued, more particularly between the Purko and Il Damat divisions.

[628]
[578]

4: Sandford
101
102
131
133
166

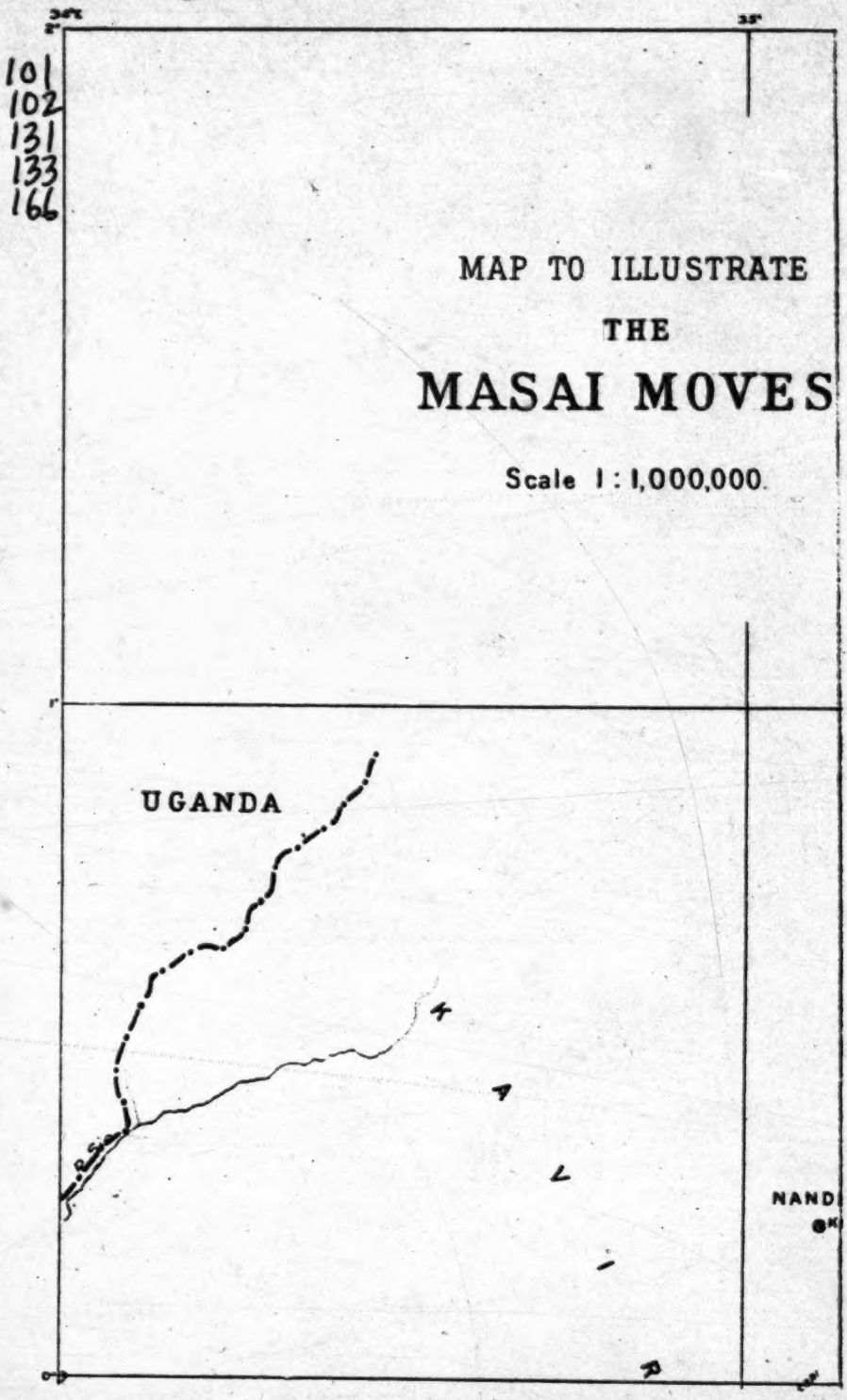
FL12 Masai FL12

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| P. 74-A | P. 74-B | P. 74-C | P. 74-D |
| P. 74-E | P. 74-F | P. 74-G | P. 74-H |
| P. 74-I | P. 74-J | P. 74-K | P. 74-L |

[Chart of positions of map facing p. 74]

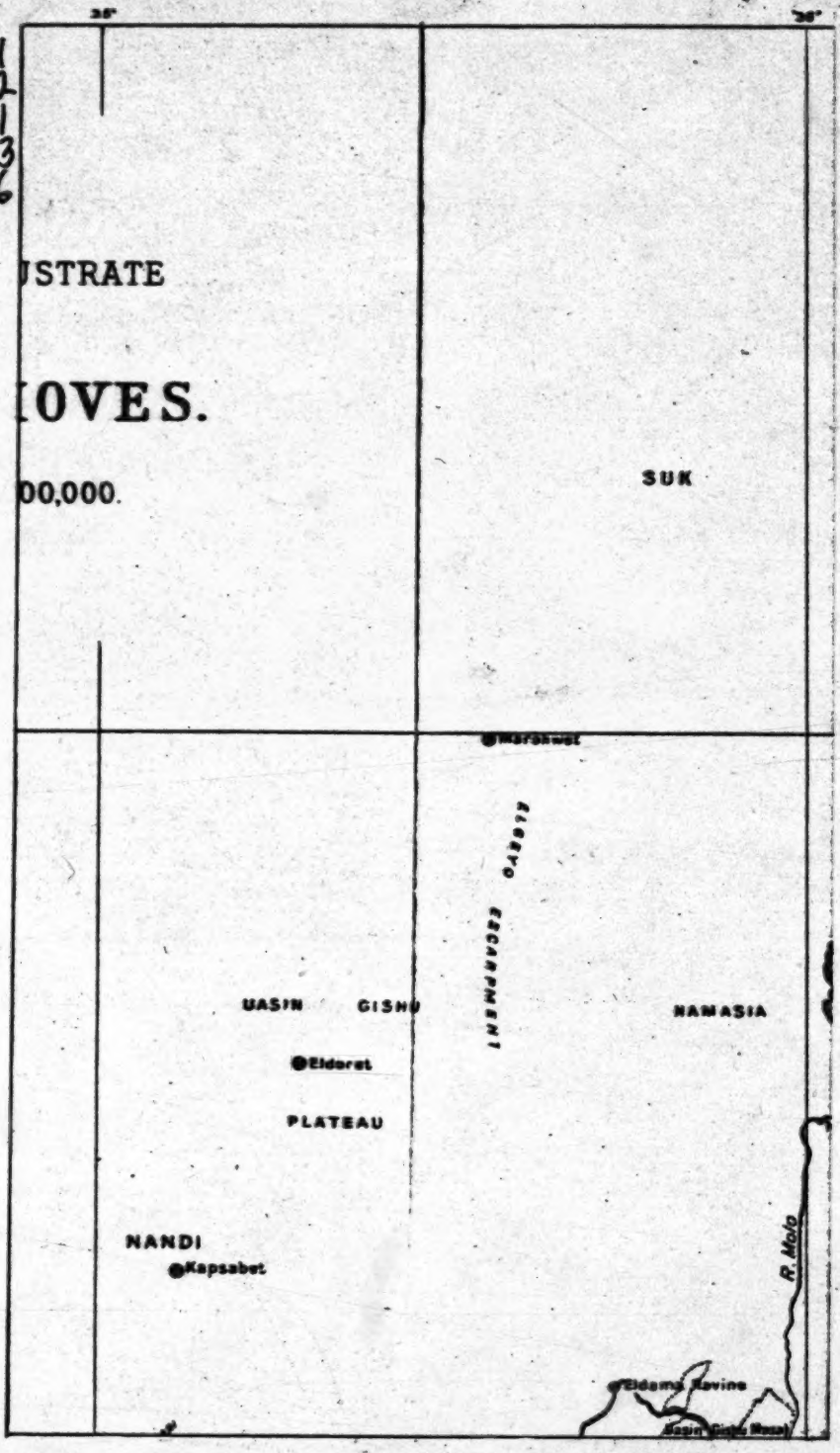
4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12
[P. 74A]

101
102
131
133
166



4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12
[R 04-8]

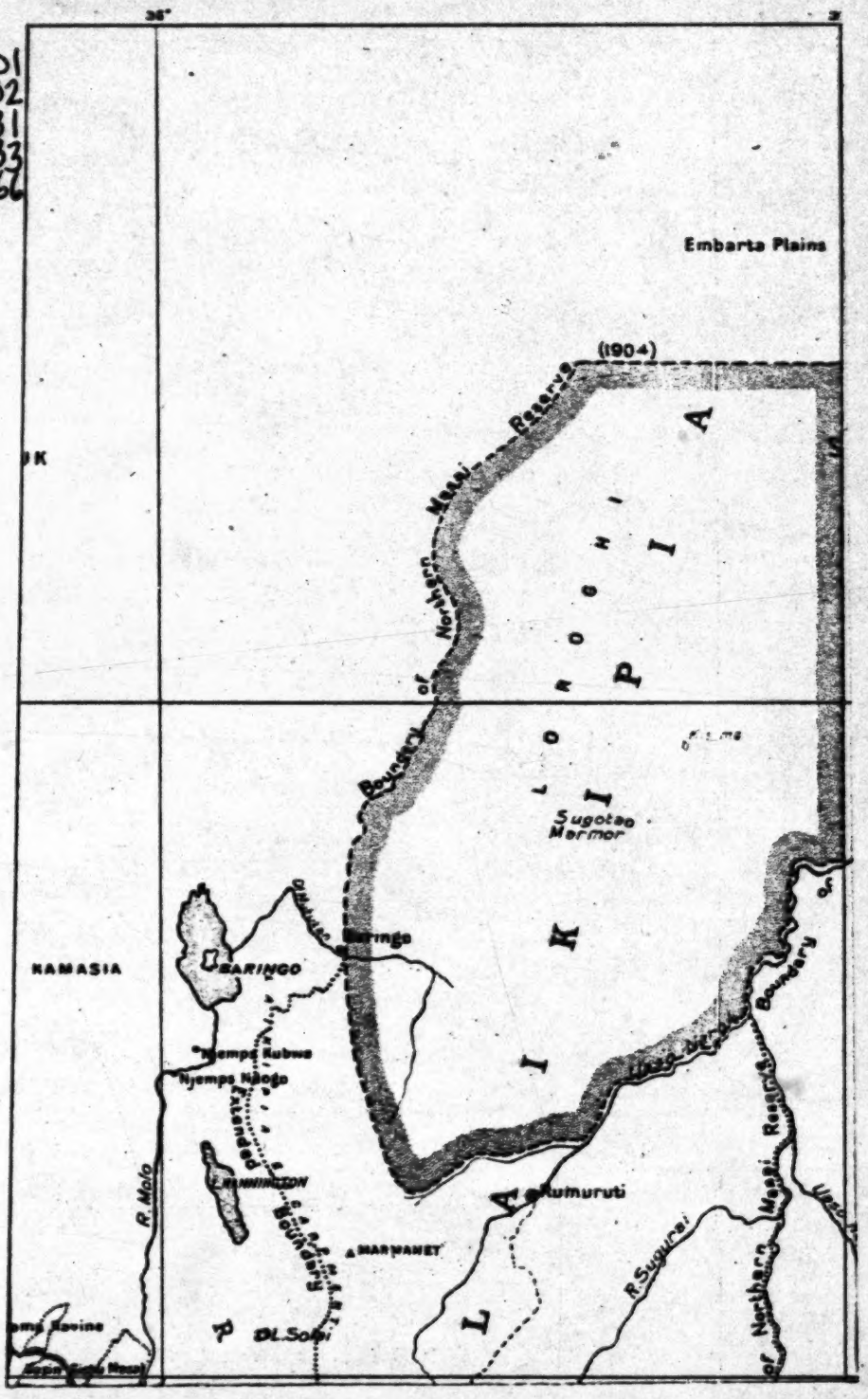
101
102
131
133
166



4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12

[P.94-C]

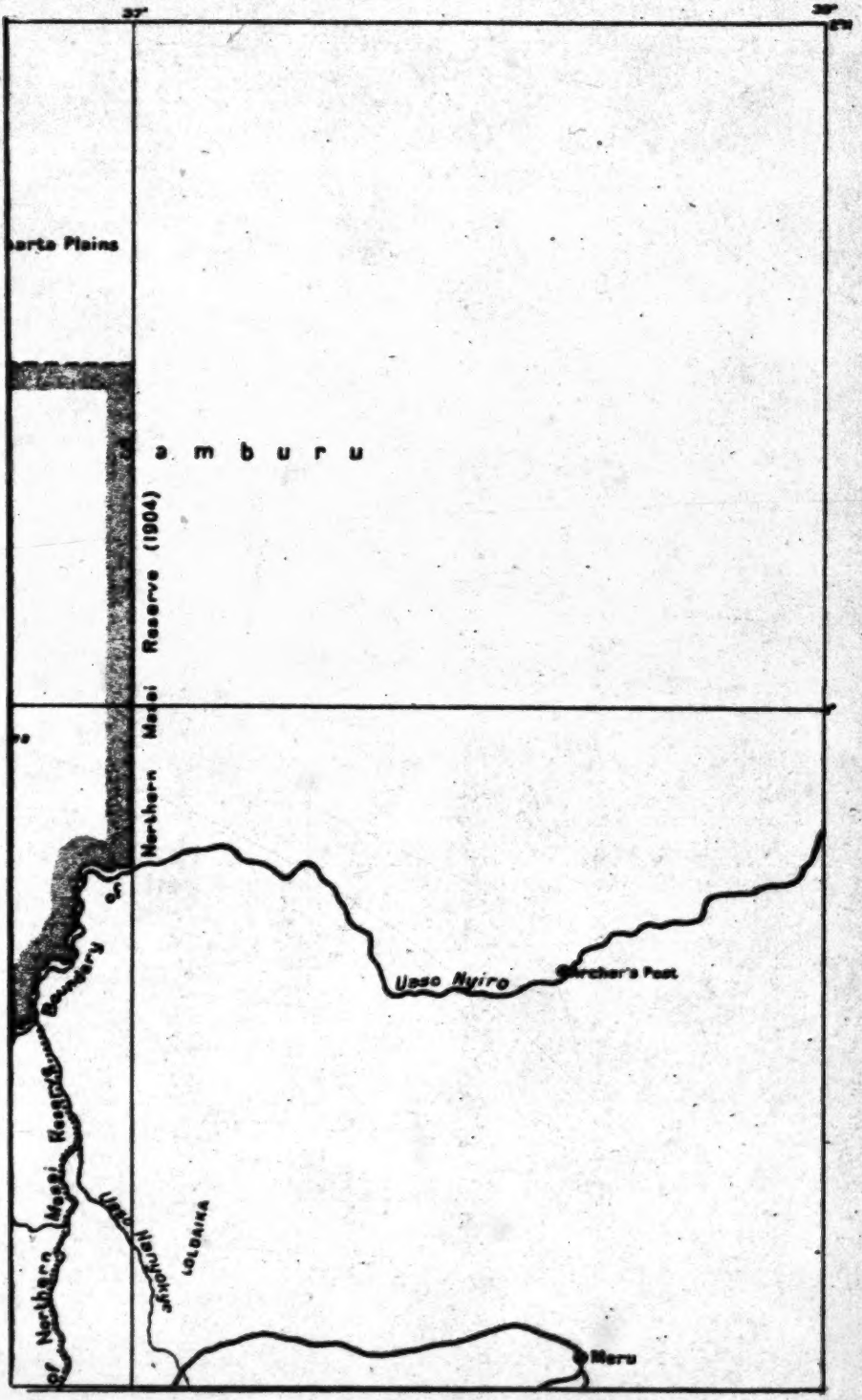
101
102
131
133
166



4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12

[P. 94-D]

101
102
131
133
166



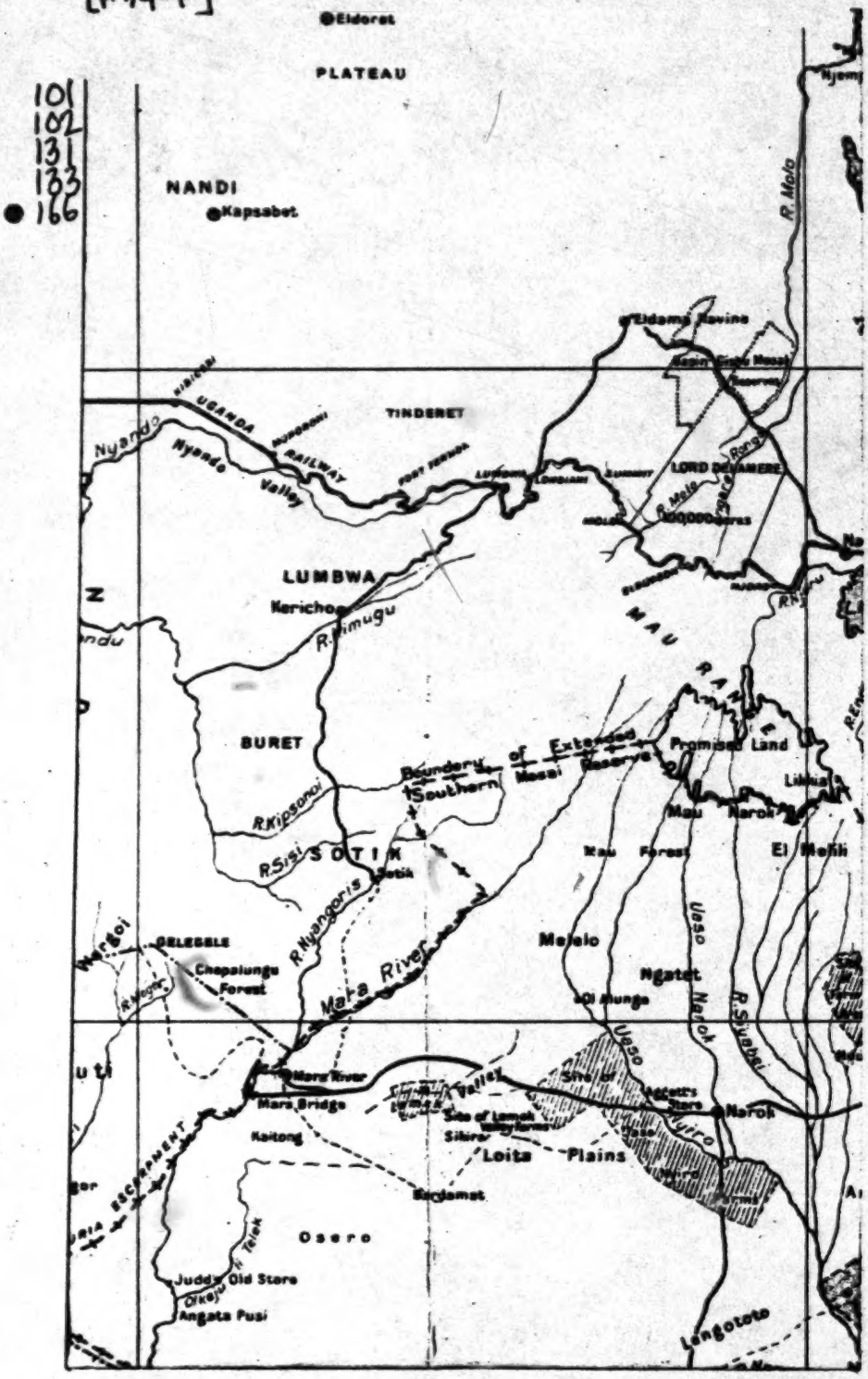
4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12

[P.74-E]

101
102
131
133
166

4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12

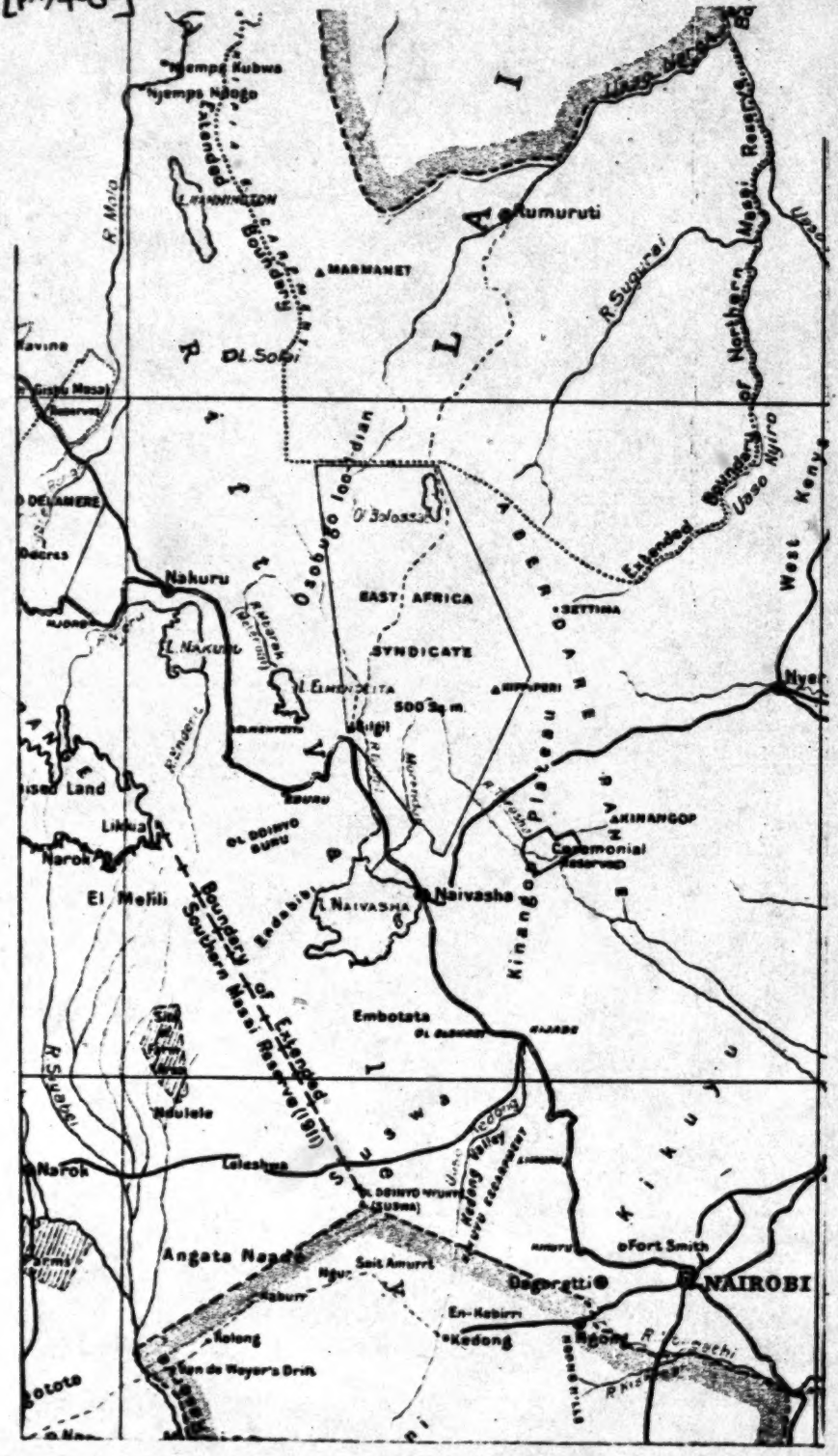
[P.94-F]



4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12

[p.74-G]

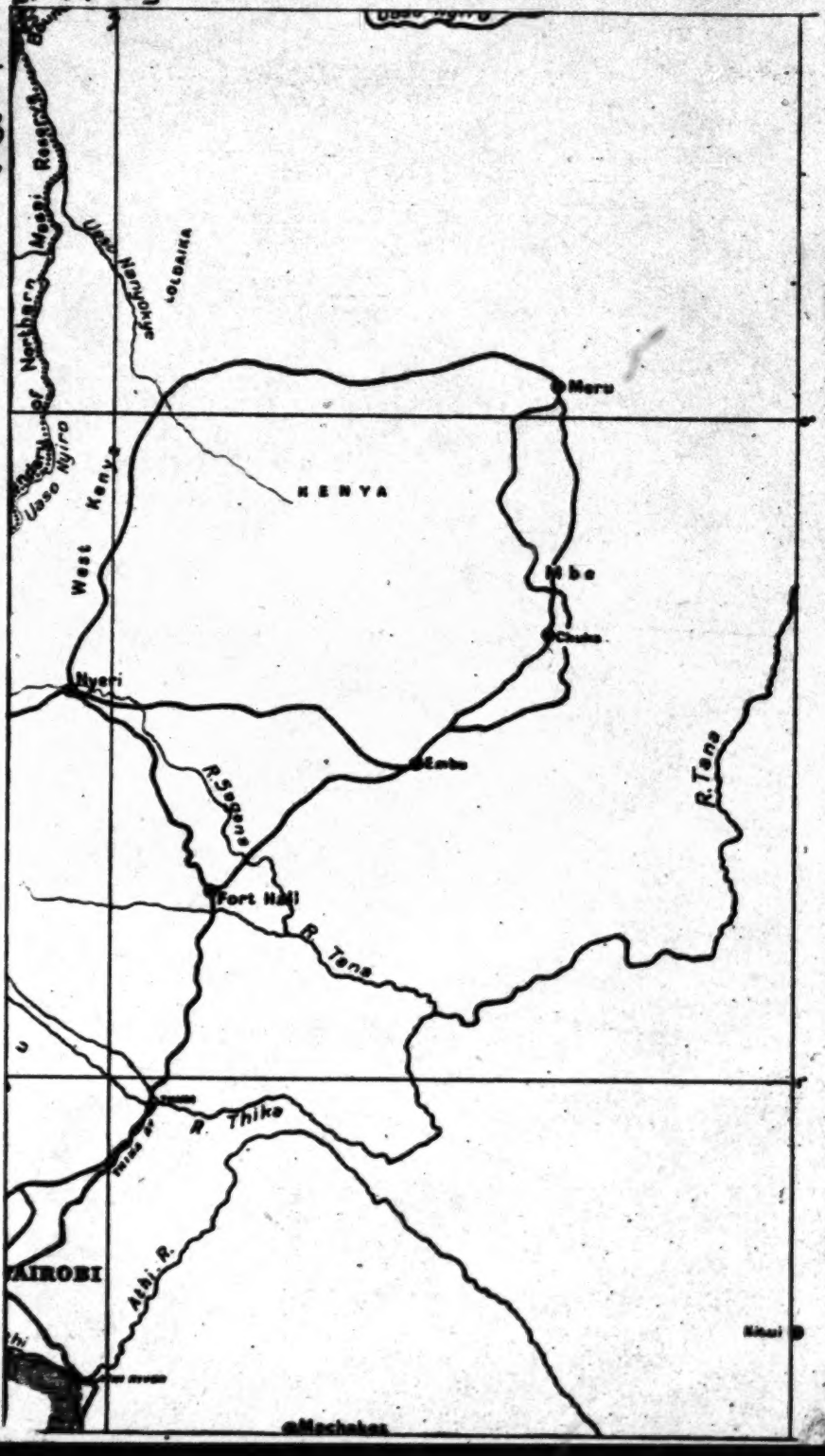
101
102
131
133
● 166



4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12

[p. 74-H]

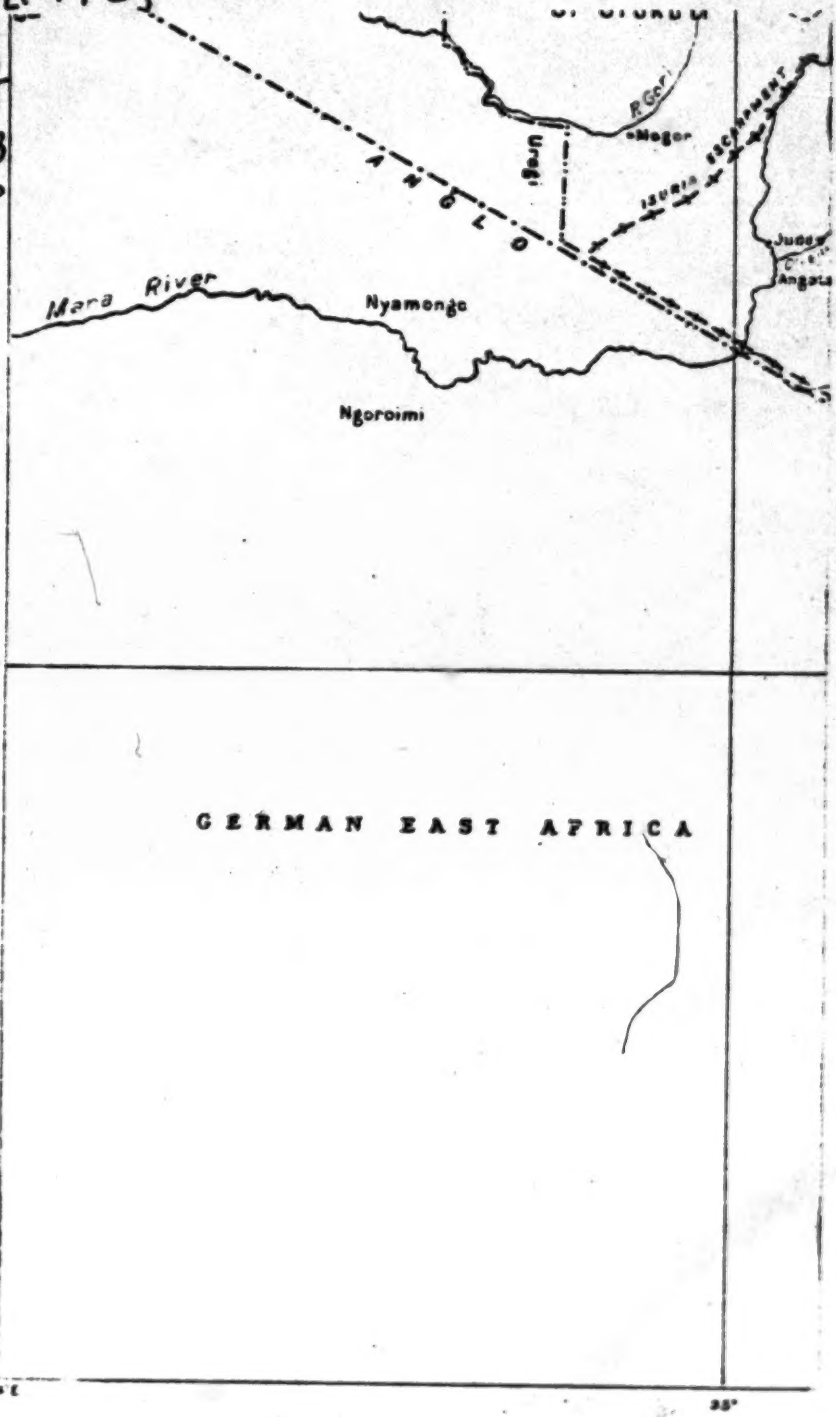
101
102
131
133
166



4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12

[P. 74-I]

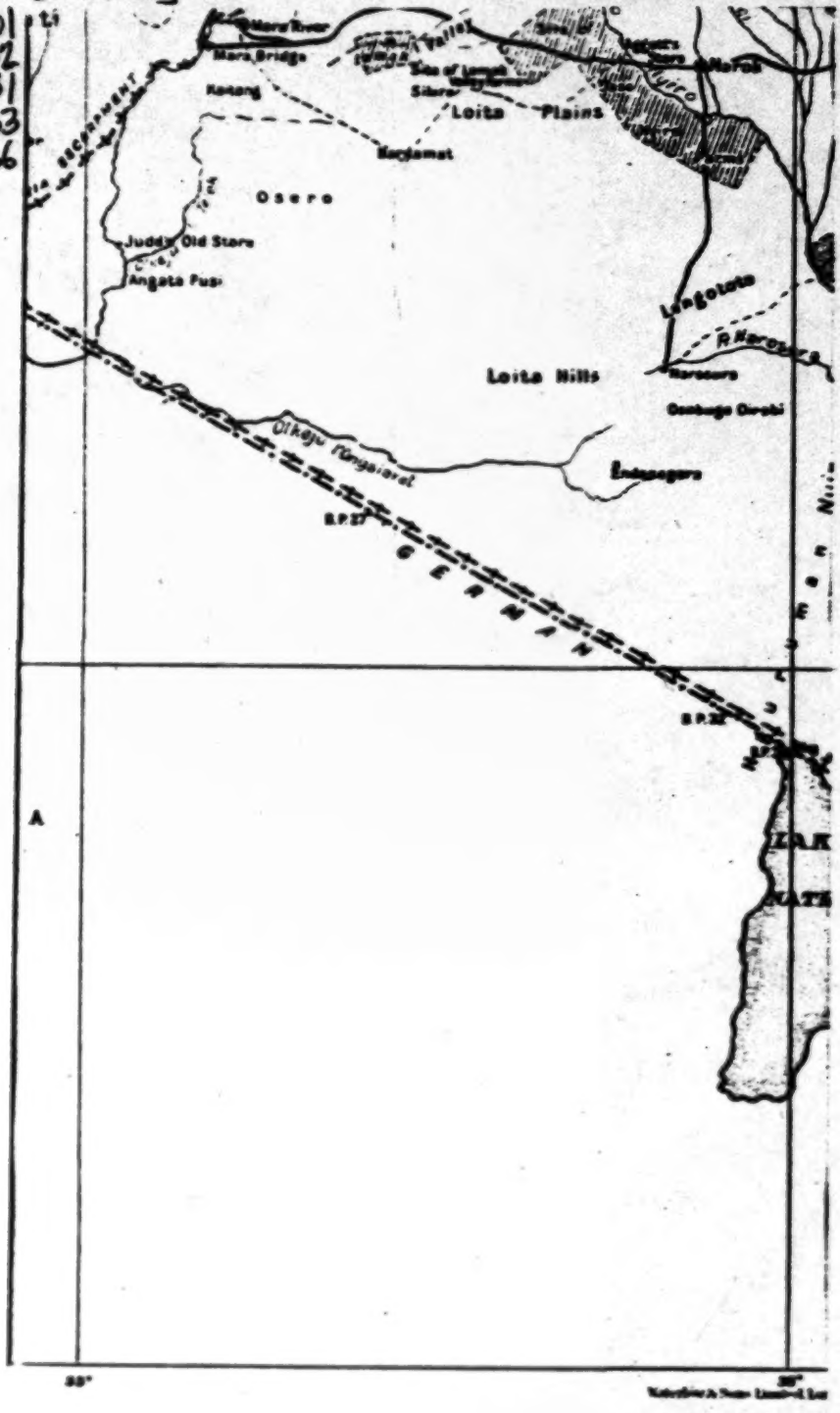
101
102
131
133
● 166



4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12

[P 74-J]

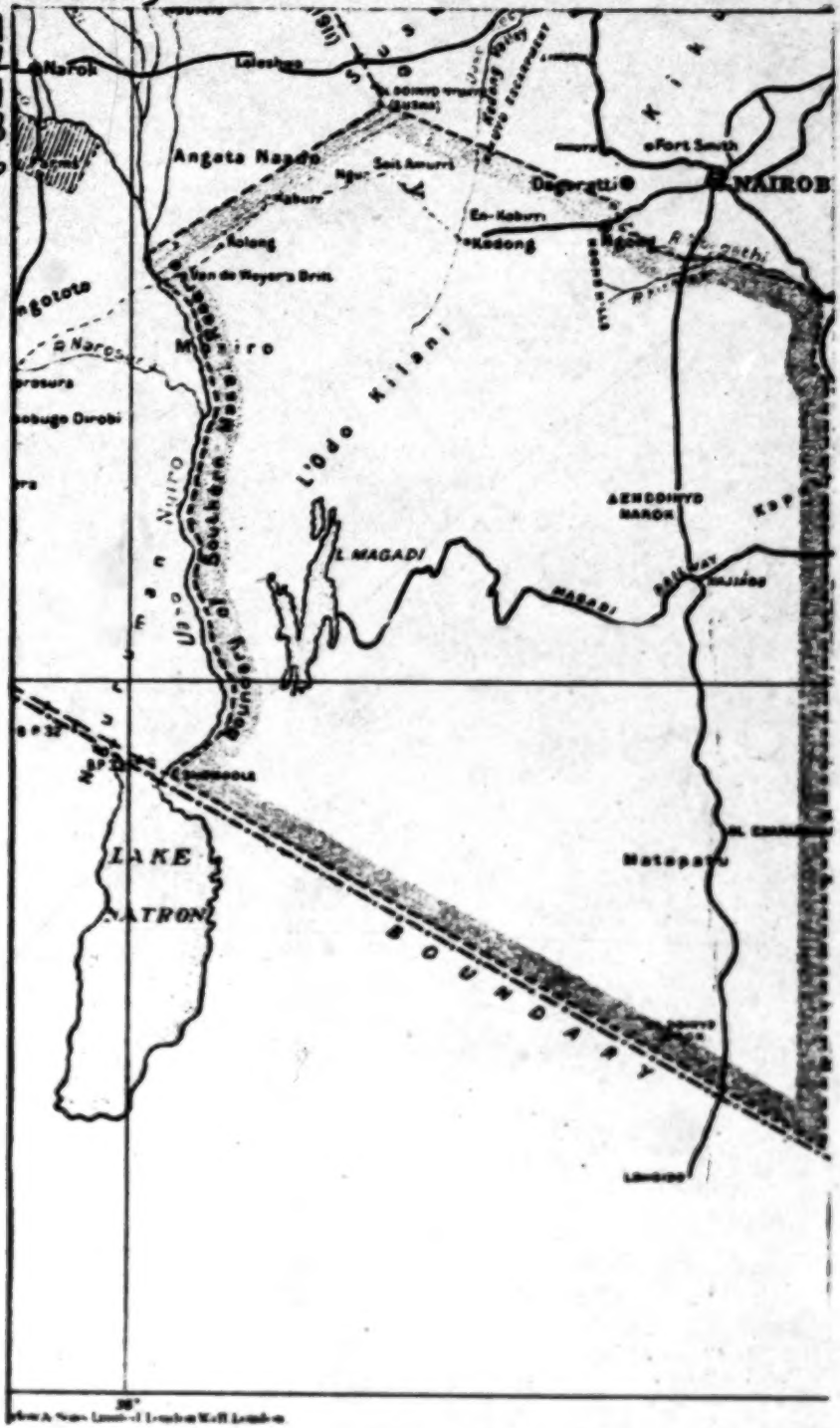
101
102
131
133
166



4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12

[P 94-K]

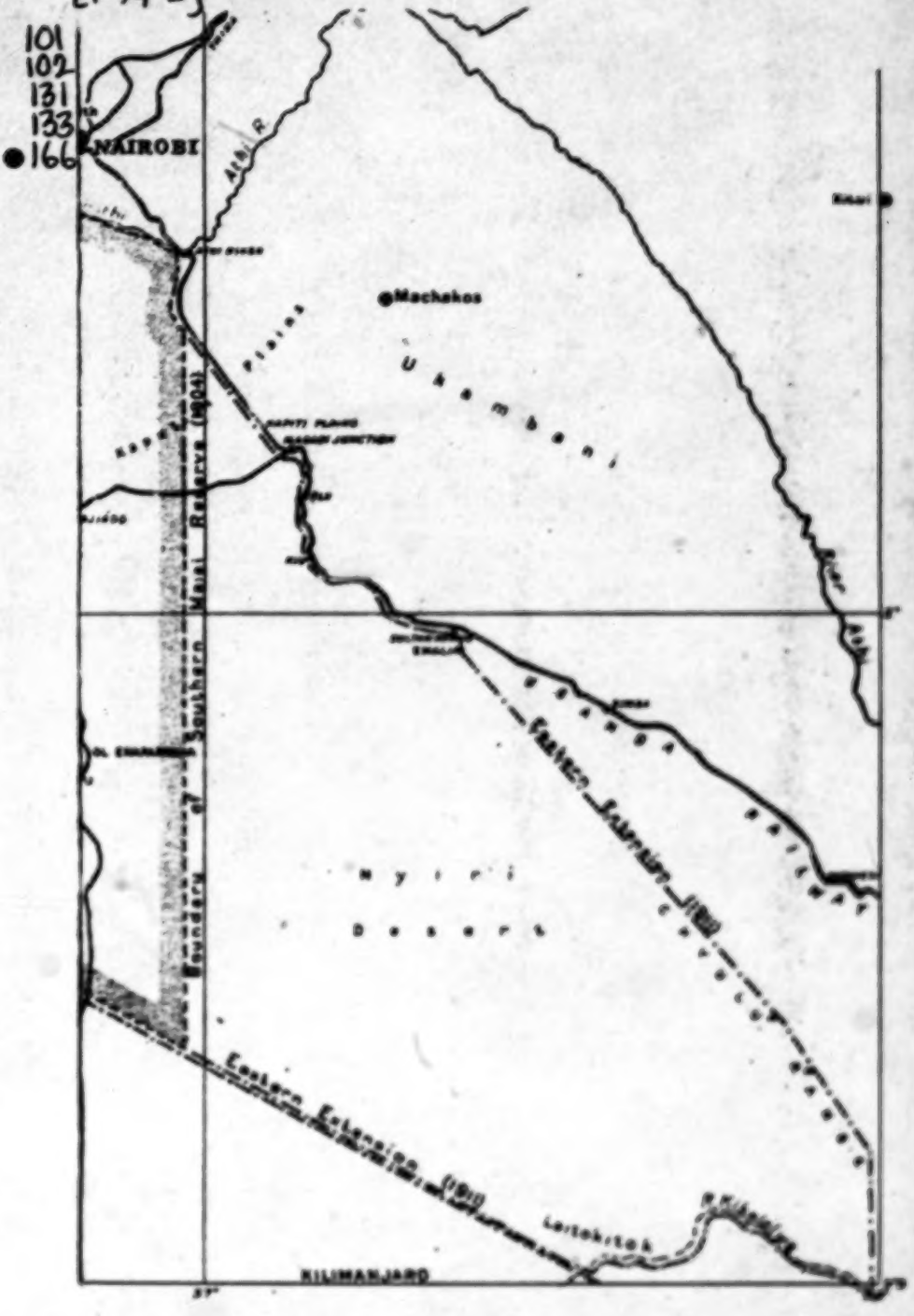
101
102
131
133
166



4: Sandford G-4, 5 (1918) 1919 FL12 Masai FL12

[P. 94-L]

101
102
131
133
166



PART III. THE WATER SUPPLY.

Tour by Mr. McClure and Captain Hawkins. Tour by Messrs. Boggs and Hollis. Tour by Mr. Watts. Government liability to improve water supply. Boring at Sakuru. The Tsavo Rivers area. The Regulations area—Sir Percy Girouard's proposal. Mr. Corbyndale's work. Mr. Hale's proposals. The engagement of Mr. Watts. Necessary improvements. The construction of the Lesseh Dams. Recommendations by Messrs. Watts and Bromhead. The completion of the Lesseh Valley Dams. The Bachbaseh Dam. Further proposals by Messrs. Watts and Bromhead. Liability of the Masai to provide funds. The Ngare Gisi Dams. Work in the Kedong Valley—The Wakiri Dam. The Penyia Dam. El Barta and Barsaret Dams. Contributions by the Masai. Damage to Dams at Lesseh and Ngare Gisi. Shortage of funds. The completion of the Ngare Gisi Dams. Repairs to Lesseh Dams. Mr. Watts' final report. Mr. Bromhead's proposals. Authority to repair damaged Dams. General recommendations. Drainage of swamps on Wakiri River. Rivers in the Rift Valley.

GOD

Towards the end of the year 1908, a tour of inspection was made by Mr. McClure, the Acting District Commissioner, Ngong, and Captain Hawkins, the Assistant District Commissioner, Naivasha, in the country lying west of the Southern Uaso Nyiro, more especially of the areas known as Uaso and the Loita Plains and Hills. This inspection was conducted with a view to ascertaining the potential value of the area as a place for European settlement. The opinion of these officers was that the land near Naivasha was, on the whole, unsuited to such settlement, because, although portions of the land could be converted into farms, the holdings would be so disconnected by reason of lack of permanent water, that proper supervision of the area would be impossible. [illegible] apart as to preclude any possibility of allotting land on a systematic plan, but they suggested that it was admirably suited to a nomadic and pastoral tribe, such as the Masai.

Tour by Mr. McClure and Captain Hawkins.

GOD
312

A portion of the west bank of the Uaso Nyiro, and the Lesseh Valley, had already been allotted to Europeans, but some 2,500* square miles of land were left available for European or native settlement. Of this area, 1,000* square miles might be described as waterless, *i.e.*, without permanent water of any description. After a moderately rainy season there would be sufficient water for such a tribe as the Masai. The year 1908 had been unusually dry, but a fair amount of standing water was found in dry river beds.

Large numbers of Purko Masai had recently migrated from Ngatet to Uaso, the Rukenia and Moripi Plains, their numbers being estimated at 2,000 men, women, and children, with 20,000 head of cattle, and the grazing grounds in Uaso were said by the Masai to be exceptionally good. The value of the magnificent grazing in the Loita Plains was greatly reduced by the absence of springs or other permanent water, but this country had previously been occupied by three clans of Masai—the Loita, L'Oiyek, and Dorset.

14
311
312

These officers estimated that the area could easily provide dry and wet weather grazing for 100,000 head of cattle, provided the water difficulty was overcome, and reported that the ravages of fly were confined to the country near the Anglo-German border.

The country was next visited by Messrs. Boggs and Hollis, who toured, from the 10th of March until the 20th of April, 1909, the area lying between the Uaso Nyiro and the Mara River with a view to ascertaining the value of the region for occupation by the Masai then located in Lumbwa, paying special attention to the water proposition. They reported that the two large rivers, the Uaso Nyiro and Mara, were 30 miles apart at their nearest points, that there were several minor rivers of no great length, and that water was obtainable by digging at various points. Some of the best water on the Uaso Nyiro was already in the occupation of white colonists, and a considerable portion on El Barta was also marked off for alienation. Under the observed conditions, Mr. Boggs was unable to recommend the removal of the Northern Masai into the region, and he suggested the investigation of the potentialities of the Mau uplands.

Tour by Messrs. Boggs and Hollis.

648*
312

* It is possible that these areas were over-estimated owing to the absence of an accurate survey.

German territory. Investigations were instituted by the District Commissioners of Yei and Maridi and these officers agreed that the stock taken on each side should be returned with the exception of a number of cattle belonging to the Warkuggo which were to be retained as blood money. Representations were made to the German Government who took steps to punish the raiders.

CAT°

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Charles Dobbs, Governor.

15. As a result of the affair described in Incident No. 13, the German Governor suggested, in May, 1914, that the Anglo-German boundary should be more clearly defined from the Umm Gumum District to Lake Chala. The matter was discussed by Mr. Bleiberg with Herr Lenz, the Imperial German District Commissioner of Maridi, at Tambura in that month, and these two officers proceeded along the border visiting the salt licks which had been the source of the dispute. An arrangement was reached whereby the Warambo, a German tribe, would be permitted to use under supervision, a salt-lick situated half a mile within British territory, on one day in each month. It was also decided that the unsurveyed stretch of fifteen miles from Lake Chala to the source of the Bomboo River should be defined by prominent marks.

Captain Kraatz, a German surveyor, visited Lake Nabera towards the end of July and was there met by Mr. Bleiberg. These officers decided that the best method of defining the boundary between beacons 14 and 30 would be by means of a trench and by the erection of additional beacons at prominent points. The German Government agreed to undertake the work between beacons 14 and 27, but the outbreak of war prevented the performance of this undertaking.

Lieut. Grove, Mr. Bleiberg, Mr.

16. On the night of the 12th of February, 1917 [illegible] two Zande spearmen were seriously wounded, and another young Zande received a slight wound. This raid was at first thought to be the work of Lur Nimir. Mr. Hosch, the Acting District Commissioner, Tambura, proceeded to investigate, in company with the Bogasa, Zigerere and examined without satisfactory result all the young men of the Kagwaba division who occupy the neighbouring district. Finally the Bogasa imposed a fine of seventy head of cattle on this division which would be returned if the culprits were handed in. No further evidence was forthcoming, and as it could not be proved that this division was in any way concerned with the raid the cattle were returned to their owners in April, 1918.

Removal of Dinka Agar Dinka etc.

17. In April, 1914, an application was received from farmers living near Gogrial that their boys and servants might be permitted to carry firearms. This request was based on the frequency of raids on their farms by the Rizeigat and other tribes and they cited five instances in the previous three years in which cattle had been stolen and the thieves undetected. The Government was unable to accede to their request but an additional police post was established among the northern Gogrial farms. [Illegible]

Raid on a Rizeigat camp, 1914.

18. Five Rizeigat of the L'Ozorok division living in the Kwongwonda Hills successfully raided a German farm near Maridi in April, 1914. They were fired on by the owner, leaving one dead, and were subsequently apprehended with their property. [Illegible]

Permission to kill game, August, 1914.

19. In August, 1914, the Governor approved a recommendation made by the officer-in-Charge that the Bviri Warambo and other natives in the reserve who were accustomed to live by hunting, might be permitted to kill game, hartebeest and wildebeest, provided that no hunting took place within the Game Reserve. Conditions were imposed that the Warambo should not be allowed to sell the skins or trophies of any of these animals, and they were forbidden to kill any other more valuable species, particularly elephants.

Formation of Local Levies, August, 1914. [Illegible]

20. A tendency on the part of the Bviri to drift southwards was noticed in August, 1914, and a detachment under Mr. Hodge was despatched in September to patrol the farm borders from Nabanda towards Wiyan with a view to causing all Bviri found out of their reserve to be returned thereto.

Closing of the Sudan-Belgian Congo frontier, 1914.

21. On the outbreak of hostilities a military camp was established at Kajo-ke on the Belgian Railway, and in order that they might not impede active operations the Bviri were instructed to move all their cattle from the grazing grounds lying

thence along the left bank of the Hoko River up stream to the point where it is crossed by the Rukuwa Ekitoma Native Road; thence along the road in the direction of Ekitoma Native to the point of commencement.

"The following area, however, is to be excluded from this native reserve, viz., 600 acres granted as follows:—

"Commencing at the point where the Hoko River is crossed by the Rukuwa Ekitoma Native Road the boundary follows this road in the direction of Ekitoma Native for about one and one-third miles; thence in an easterly direction for about half a mile; thence in a south-south-easterly direction to the Hoko River, thence along the left bank of the Hoko River up stream to the point of commencement.

The Native Land Act Regulations, 1913

On the 9th of April, 1914, Rules were introduced under the Native Land Regulations, 1913, forbidding the Urewa Ekitoni Maori from proceeding out of the reserve set aside for the use of their tribe except under permit from a District Commissioner or Assistant District Commissioner.

Proposals for the removal of the Urewa Ekitoni Maori.

In August, 1914, proposals emanated from the Land Office recommending the removal of the Urewa Ekitoni Maori from the area reserved for them and throwing their reserve open to European settlement. The argument was that in the event of a railway passing through that part of the country, it would be a pity to allow this small and unprofitable tribe to occupy a tract of land so valuable from an agricultural point of view as the Hoko River Reserve.

It was suggested that a place might be found for these people in the Northern Maori Reserve.

Action on these proposals was deferred by order of the Governor until various other important questions relating to native reserves had been settled.

The Urewa Ekitoni Maori in the North Kerimoaka District

After the defeat of the Urewa Ekitoni Maori by the Lehigeia Maori on the plateau during the latter half of the nineteenth century, members of the former tribe found their way into Kerimoaka country and settled in the North Kerimoaka area under the Ranihi Government. From that area they were moved further to the west in 1908. In 1907 they were located in all parts of the North Kerimoaka district, some of the bands being situated near the Uganda border. Periodically, they asked to be allowed to take up separate and unoccupied grazing lands in the east of the district but these applications were opposed by the Provincial Commissioner, Mr. Ainsworth, who insisted that these Maori should remain mixed up with the Kerimoaka.

When dissension broke out in North Kerimoaka District in 1911, the District Commissioner allowed these people to move east with their cattle so that the bands might escape the area of infection and they used the opportunity afforded by this privilege in order to make an effort to achieve their desire to be allowed to reside by themselves under Maori conditions. Several exploratory moves into the Urewa Ranges area.

The future policy in dealing with this section of the tribe was referred to the Governor for decision in March, 1913, and he directed that these Urewa Ekitoni Maori should be moved into the North Kerimoaka District and placed under the control of responsible chiefs with a view to inducing them to mix with the neighbouring Kerimoaka and to abandon their pastoral inclinations in favour of agricultural enterprise.

Steps were taken during March and April, 1914, to move these Maori from the western parts of the district and they were distributed in the various localities under the personal supervision of the chiefs concerned.

[p. 179 not reproduced]

## Appendix I.

Agreement, dated 10th August, 1904, between His Majesty's Commissioners for the East Africa Protectorate and the Chiefs of the Masai Tribe.

*648 166 We, the Undersigned, being the Lybon and Chiefs (representatives) of the existing clans and sections of the Masai tribes in the East Africa Protectorate, having, this 9th day of August, 1904, met Sir Donald Stewart, His Majesty's Commissioner for the East Africa Protectorate and discussed fully the question of a land settlement scheme for the Masai, have, of our own free will, decided that it is for our best interests to remove our people, flocks, and herds into definite reservations away from the railway line, and away from any land that may be thrown open to European settlement.

We have, after having already discussed the matter with Mr. Hobley at Naivasha and Mr. Ainsworth at Nairobi, given this matter every consideration, and we recognize that the Government, in taking up this question, are taking into consideration our best interests.

Now we, being fully satisfied that the proposals for our removal to definite and final reserves are for the undoubted good of our race, have agreed as follows:—

[131] That the Elburgo, Gekunukki, Loita, Damat, and Laitayok sections shall remove absolutely to Laikipia, and the boundaries of the Settlement shall be, approximately, as follows:—

On the north, by the Lovaghi Mountains.

On the west, by the Laikipia (Nderit) Escarpment.

On the south, by the Lemawa or Nyuo and Guaso Narok Rivers.

On the east, by Kisima (approximate).

And by the removal of the foregoing sections to the reserve we undertake to vacate the whole of the Rift Valley, to be used by the Government for the purposes of European settlement. Further, that the Kaputei, Matapato, Ndogelani, and Siguroi sections shall remove into the territory originally occupied by them to the south of Donyo Lamuyu (Ngongo), and the Kimuriaa stream, and to comprise within this area the Donyo Lamuyu, Ndogelani, and Matapato Mountains, and the Donyo Narok, and to extend to Simba on the west.

In addition to the foregoing, Lenana, as Chief Lybon, and his successors, to be allowed to occupy the land lying in between the Mbagathi and Kimuriaa streams from Donyo Lamuyu to the point where both streams meet, with the exception of land already occupied by Mr. Oribon, Mr. McQueen, and Mr. Paterson.

*648 In addition to the foregoing, we asked that a right of road to include certain access to water be granted to us to allow of our keeping up communications between the two reserved areas, and, further, that we be allowed to retain control of at least 5 square miles of land (at a point on the slopes of Kinangop to be pointed out by Legalishu and Mambrudi), whereat we can carry out our circumcision rites and ceremonies, in accordance with the custom of our ancestors.

We ask, as a most important point in this arrangement, that the Government will establish and maintain a station on Laikipia, and that officers whom we know and trust may be appointed to look after us there.

Also that the Government will pay reasonable compensation for any Masai cultivation at present existing near Nairobi.

In conclusion, we wish to state that we are quite satisfied with the foregoing arrangement, and we bind ourselves and our successors, as well as our people, to observe them.

## Appendix 2.

### Agreement of 1911.

### Agreement.

We, the undersigned, being the Paramount Chief of all the Masai and his regents and the representatives of that portion of the Masai tribe living in the Northern Masai Reserve, as defined in the agreement entered into with the late Sir Donald William Stewart, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, His Majesty's Commissioner for the East Africa Protectorate, on the ninth day of August One thousand nine hundred and four, and more particularly set out in the Proclamation of May thirtieth One thousand nine hundred and six and published in the "Official Gazette" of June first One thousand nine hundred and six, do hereby on our own behalf and on behalf of our people, whose representatives we are, being satisfied that it is to the best interest of their tribe that the Masai people should inhabit one area and should not be divided into two sections as most arise under the agreement aforesaid whereby there were reserved to the Masai tribe two separate and distinct areas of land, enter of our own free will into the following agreement with Sir Edmund Percy Cranwill Girouard, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Member of the Distinguished Service Order, Governor and Commander in Chief of the East Africa Protectorate, hereinafter referred to as the Governor.

We agree to vacate at such time as the Governor may direct the Northern Masai Reserve which we have hitherto inhabited and occupied and to remove by such routes as the Governor may notify to us our people, herds and flocks to such area on the south side of the Uganda Railway as the Governor may locate to us the said area being bounded approximately as follows and as shown on the attached map.

On the south by the Anglo-German frontier;

On the west by the Ol-erukoti Range, by the Amala River, otherwise called Angare-dalmak or Engare-e-'n-gipai, by the eastern and northern boundaries of the Sotik Native Reserve, and by a line drawn from the most northerly point of the northern boundary of the Sotik Native Reserve to the south-western boundary of the land set aside for Mr. E. Powys Cobb eq Mau;

On the north by the southern and eastern boundaries of the said land set aside for Mr. E. Powys Cobb, and by a straight line drawn from the north-eastern boundary of the said land to the highest point of Mount Nauru otherwise called Ol-doinyo Onyoke;

On the east by the Southern Masai Native Reserve as defined in the Proclamation dated *June* eighteenth One thousand nine hundred and six, and published in the "Official Gazette" of *July* first One thousand nine hundred and six.

Provided that nothing in this agreement contained shall be deemed to deprive the Masai tribe of the rights reserved to it under the agreement of August ninth one thousand nine hundred and four aforesaid to the land on the slopes of Kilimanjaro whereon the circumcision rights and ceremonies may be held.

*648
166

In witness whereof and in confirmation of this agreement which has been fully explained to us we hereby set our marks against our names as under:—

Mark of Sepe, son of Ol-onana (Lenana), Paramount Chief of all the Maasi.

Mark of Ol-le-Gelenno (Legulishu), Regent during the minority of Segi, head of the Molelyan Clan, and chief spokesman (Ol-aigwenani) of the Il-Kitoip (Il-Moriaho) age-grade of the Purko Maasi.

Mark of Ngarova, Regent during the minority of Segi, of the Ainer Clan.

Mark of Ol-le-Yelu, head of the Mokwan Clan of the Purko Maasi, and one of the spokesmen (Ol-aigwenani) of the Il-Kitoip (Il-Moriaho) age-grade of the Purko Maasi.

Mark of Ol-le-Turere, head of the Mokwan Clan of the Purko Maasi.

Mark of Ole-le-Malit, one of Mankondi's representatives, of the Laghumas branch of the Ainer Clan of the Purko Maasi.

Mark of Ol-le-Matipe, one of Mankondi's representatives, of the Laghumas branch of the Ainer Clan of the Purko Maasi.

Mark of Ol-le-Nareila, head of the Tarosero Clan of the Purko Maasi.

Mark of Ol-le-Nasura, head of the Ainer Clan of the Purko Maasi.

Mark of Marnarre, uncle and personal attendant of Segi.

Mark of Sanchi, the Prime Minister of the late Chief Ol-onana (Lenana) and principal elder of the Southern Maasi Reserve.

Mark of Arali, uncle of Segi, representing the Loita Maasi.

Mark of Ol-le-Tanyai of the Tarosero Clan, chief spokesman (Ol-aigwenani) of the Lamek (Moiteroni) age-grade of the Purko Maasi.

The above set their marks to this agreement at Nairobi on the fourth day of April nineteen hundred and eleven.

A. C. Hollis,
Secretary, Native Affairs.

Ol-le Masikonte, head of the Laghumas section of the Ainer Clan; chief elder of the Purko Maasi, called in the former treaty Ol Oiboni of the Purko Maasi.

Ol-le-Bayiet, head of the Ainer Clan of the Purko Maasi on Laikipia, Ol aigwenani of the age known as Il Moriaho.

The above set their marks to this agreement at Rumuruti on the 12th day of April nineteen hundred and eleven.

E. D. Brower.
Assistant District Commissioner, Laikipia.

Witnesses:
A. J. M. Cullyer
D C. Laikipia.

His Mark: Ol-le-Lemeyet, of the Ainer Clan Purko Maasi.
His Mark: Ol-le-Gumeran, head of Tarosero Clan of Purko Maasi.
His Mark: Ol-le-Salow, brother of Ol-le-Kotikush, as a deputy for Ol-le-Kotikush.

The above set their marks to this agreement at Rumuruti on 19th day of April, 1911.

E. D. Brower,
Assistant District Commissioner i/c Laikipia.

We the undersigned certify that we correctly interpreted this document to the Chief, Regents, and Representatives of the Maasi who were present at the meeting at Nairobi.

A. C. Hollis.
Ol-le-Tipea, of the Il-Ainer Clan.

We the undersigned certify that we correctly interpreted this document to the Representatives of the Masai at Rumuruti. 648* 166 ●

A. J. M. COLLYER,
District Commissioner.
OL-LE-TINKA. His Mark.

In consideration of the above I, Edouard Percy Cranwill Girouard, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Member of the Distinguished Service Order, Governor and Commander in Chief of the East Africa Protectorate, agree on behalf of His Majesty's Government but subject to the approval of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies to reserve for the exclusive use of the Masai tribe the area on the south side of the Uganda Railway as defined above and as shown on the attached map, which area is conclusive with the Southern Masai Native Reserve and to further extend the existing Southern Masai Native Reserve by an addition of an area of approximately three thousand and one hundred square miles, such area as shown on the accompanying map the approximate boundaries being on the south the Anglo-German Frontier, on the west the eastern boundary of the aforesaid Southern Masai Reserve, on the north and east by the Uganda Railway zone from the Athi River to Sultan Hamud Railway Station thence in a line drawn from the said station to the north-west point of the Chiuiu Range thence along the Chiuiu Range to the south-eastern extremity thereof thence by a straight line to the meeting point of the Eng-are Rongai and the Tawo Rivers thence by the Eng-are Rongai River to the Anglo-German frontier and to undertake on behalf of His Majesty's Government to endeavour to remove all European settlers from the said areas and not to lease or grant any land within the said areas (except such land as may be required for mining purposes or for any public purpose) without the sanction of the Paramount Chief and the representatives of the Masai tribe.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this twenty-sixth day of April One thousand nine hundred and eleven.

(L.S.)

Signed sealed and delivered by the within named Sir Edouard Percy Cranwill Girouard in the presence of
A. C. HOLLIS.
} E. P. C. GIROUARD.

We, the undersigned were present at a meeting between His Excellency the Governor and the Masai at Nairobi on the fourth day of April One thousand nine hundred and eleven, and we heard this document explained to the Chief and the representatives of the Masai who entered into this agreement of their own free will and with full knowledge of the contents thereof :—

R. M. CRAWE,
Crown Advocate.
C. W. HOBLEY,
Provincial Commissioner, Ukamba.
JOHN AINSWORTH,
Provincial Commissioner, Nyanza.
C. R. W. LANE,
Provincial Commissioner, Naivasha.
R. L. HEWER,
Provincial Commissioner, Naivasha.
J. W. T. MCCLELLAN,
Provincial Commissioner, Kenya.
A. C. HOLLIS,
Secretary for Native Affairs.
C. C. BOWRING,
Treasurer and M.L.C.

[pp. 186-222 not processed]

6:Thomson K-3 (1883-1884)1887
FL12 Masai FL12



The northerly or higher plateau region of Masai Land may be described as rising from an elevation of nearly 5000 feet on either side, and culminating in the centre at an elevation of little short of 9000 feet—although through this very line of highest elevation runs from the Dogilani plain the remarkable meridional trough which encloses the charming chain of isolated lakes, Naivasha, Elmeteita, Nakuro, and Baringo; and which, at the last-named place, begins to widen out till it assumes the characteristics of the southerly plain of Masai Land. [133]

On the eastern half of this divided plateau rises, as we have seen, the snow-clad peak of Kenia—and the picturesque range of the Aberdare Mountains, which runs almost parallel with the central line of depression. A more charming region is probably not to be found in all Africa, probably not even in Abyssinia. Though lying at a general elevation of 6000 feet, it is not mountainous, but extends out in billowy, swelling reaches, and is characterized by everything that makes a pleasing landscape. Here are dense patches of flowering shrubs; there noble forests. Now you traverse a park-like country enlivened by groups of game; anon, great herds of cattle, or flocks of sheep and goats are seen wandering knee-deep in the splendid pasture. There is little in the aspect of the country to suggest the popular idea of the Tropics. The eye rests upon coniferous trees, forming pine-like woods, and you can gather sprigs of heath, sweet-scented clover, anemone, and other familiar forms. In vain you look for the graceful palm—ever present in the mental pictures of the untravelled traveller. The country is a very network of babbling brooks and streams—those of Lykipia forming the mysterious Guaso Nyiro; those of Kikuyu the Tana, which flows to the Indian Ocean through the Galla country; while further south in Kaptè the streams converge to form the Athi River, which flows through U-kambani to the Sabaki River.

Kikuyu occupies the higher areas of the eastern half of the plateau, cutting across it immediately south of the equator. Some of the higher parts are covered with a dense forest of bamboo; notably to the east of Naivasha, and between it and the Aberdare Mountains. Hence the Swahili name of one recruiting-place—Mianzi-ni (Bamboo Country). [137]

The greater part of Lykipia—and that the richer portion—is quite uninhabited, owing, in a great degree, to the [361] [166]

6: Thomson K-3 (1883-1884)1887
FL12 Masai FL12



decimation of the Masai of that part, through their intestine wars—a fact that has caused them to retreat from the northerly districts, which are in dangerous proximity to the Wa-sûk.

The Masai country, so called, may be said to include the area lying between 1° N. lat., and 5° S. In breadth it is very irregular; but if we say that the average is ninety miles, we shall be pretty near the truth. In this, however, we are including several isolated areas occupied either by tribes wholly different from the Masai, or by the agricultural Wakwafi, who are mere off-shoots of the Masai.

The rainfall is very small over the greater part of this large area. Only an approximate guess, of course, can be given—but I think I am within the mark in placing the rainfall of the lower desert region at fifteen inches, and the higher plateau areas at from thirty to forty inches in the year. During the fourteen months in which I travelled in that region my caravan was not caught ten times on the march by rain,—a striking contrast to my experience in the region further south, where, for weeks together, rain was incessant. The rains are almost entirely confined to February, March, and April. The consequence of this insignificant rainfall is, as we have seen, that the lower plains are practically desert, though the soil is of the richest nature. There are absolutely no marshes, with their physical discomforts and poisonous exhalations breeding disease and death. The air is dry and invigorating, and though the days are hot yet the breezes blow with refreshing coolness, and a night of low temperature—and even frequently of intense cold—braces one up for the fatigues of the garish day. The contrast, indeed, is felt to be just a little too great, when you rise, shivering, in the morning, to see the grass covered with hoar frost, and then in the afternoon find yourself perspiring in the airiest of costumes, under a shady bush, with the temperature above 90° Fahr. The air, however, being so dry, I felt no inconvenience from these abrupt changes, and it was simply wonderful to see how the men would lie in the open air without a shred of clothing, and with the temperature at the freezing-point.

At the high altitudes of this plateau region, hailstorms of very great violence are of frequent occurrence, more particularly in the neighbourhood of the Aberdare Mountains. More than once caravans have been overtaken by them while on the march, and great numbers of the men killed by the

6:Thomson K-3 (1883-1884)1887
FL12 Masai FL12



174 disaster fell upon them shortly after, in a raid against their
628 brethren of Kisongo. The saying that misfortunes never come singly was well exemplified by their case, for nature took up the work of ruin. A cloud of locusts settled on the land, and left not a blade of grass or other green thing, so that the cattle died in enormous numbers through starvation.

[142]
[291]
[301]

MASAI MARRIED WOMAN, NJIRI.

While the Wa-kwafi were in this unhappy plight, the Masai of the plains to the west fell upon them and smote them hip and thigh, and thus broke up and revenged themselves upon the most powerful division of the tribe. Great numbers having lost their cattle and been reduced to starvation, were
174 compelled to throw in their fortunes with tribes they had
● 166 hitherto despised. Some found an asylum in the forests of Taveta and Kahè, and the lower slopes of Mount Meru or

6: Thomson K-3 (1883-1884)1887
FL12 Masai FL12
Wa-Kwafi



Arusha-wa-jûû. Others, driven south, threw in their lot with the Wa-zeguha, keeping tribally more or less distinct from them. These are the hybrid tribes visited lately by the energetic missionaries, Messrs. Last and Baxter, and of which such interesting accounts have been given in the "Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society." Another section of the Wa-kwafi was driven westward, and now forms the colonies of Nderserria-ni and Nguruma-ni. The establishment of these colonies has been an unmitigated blessing to the country. In every case they have become the centres of trade, where men's lives and goods are safe; and indeed there is no more striking feature in the results of the enforced change in the people's mode of life than the remarkable development of peaceable habits and honest ways. This shows what the Masai, from their distinctly higher mental development, are capable of, when cut away from their traditions and brought under conditions more favourable to their advancement towards civilization. As throwing light on the origin of minor races and the blending of two distinct types as at Taveta, the subject is an interesting study.

The Wa-kwafi were not all scattered thus, however, for a large division of the clan kept together, and contrived to cut their way through Kikuyu and to reach Lykipia, where they settled.

Another section crossed the meridional trough and reached the opposite half of the plateau in Guas' Ngishu. In both districts they found superb grazing-grounds and plenty of elbow-room, and there for a time they remained quietly, and increased rapidly in numbers. At last their wars began again. Grown bold, they attacked the Masai about fifteen years ago. The opposing parties formed regular camps, and fought pitched battles with great fury, thousands being killed on both sides. The women stood by and watched, while they incited and urged on the combatants in their terrible hand-to-hand encounters. The Masai were at first beaten, but, fighting with the stubbornness of despair, they disputed every foot of ground. They were driven from the whole of Naivasha and Kinangop, and their enemies, still victorious, carried the war into Kaptè. Matters now changed, however. The Masai of the entire region to the south gathered together and came to the assistance of their brethren of Kaptè. Soon the tables were turned, and the Wa-kwafi were gradually forced back. The great majority of them